



How to Write a Research Question

Four Elements of a GOOD Research Question

- **Not too narrow or too broad**
- **Interesting to you**
- **Can be answered with resources to which you have access**
- **Based on your previous knowledge**

Question Stems

When creating your research question, start brainstorming with these prompts.

Who

What

Where

When

Why

How

Focus on What, Why, and How for deeper question

Too Narrow, Too Broad

Too Narrow: If you can answer your question using only one source, it is too narrow. The answer to that question might be helpful, but it is not deep enough to be a good research question.

An example of a too narrow question is: What was the population of Greece during the first Olympics?

It might be interesting, but it's too specific.

Too Broad: If almost any information about the topic could be considered relevant, your question is too broad. You need to find a way to use what you find out to make your question more specific.

An example of a too broad question is: What sports were played in Ancient Greece?

This asks a really big question. You would need to focus the question to discover what you really want to know about the topic.

Resources

Also, remember when creating a research question that you need to be able to find the answer. You need to create a question that is answerable in the amount of time you have to answer it.

And Remember

A good question is something that should be INTERESTING to you! If you don't care about the topic, it will be harder to be motivated to find out the answer.