

RESEARCH QUESTION



Formulating A Research Question



Goals

- Understand why we develop academic research questions.
- Consider strategies for developing research questions.
- Begin formulating our own research questions.



A Good Research Question is.....

- Requires a judgement to be made (is it global or local importance)
- Allows debate between different perspectives
- Allows for the answer to be in the middle ground or to synthesise different perspectives
- Clear and precise
- Can be answered within the available resources to the learner and really interests the learner



Examples

Example or research questions

Broad topic	Narrowed topic	Focused topic	Research question
Women's health	Women and cancer	Women smokers and breast cancer	Is cigarette smoking associated with breast cancer risk?
Computer games	Computer game violence	Computer game violence and children	How does violence in computer games affect children?
Eating disorders	Teenagers and eating disorders	Teen peer pressure and bulimia	What role, if any, does peer pressure play in the development of bulimia

Strategy#1 Research Question

Personal Knowledge

- ❖ List your interests as they pertain to your specific discipline or assignment.
- ❖ Consider one of the items on the list
- ❖ Now find out the following questions in the free write:
Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? So what?
and “What if.....”

Secondary Resources : Strategy#2

- **Reading :**

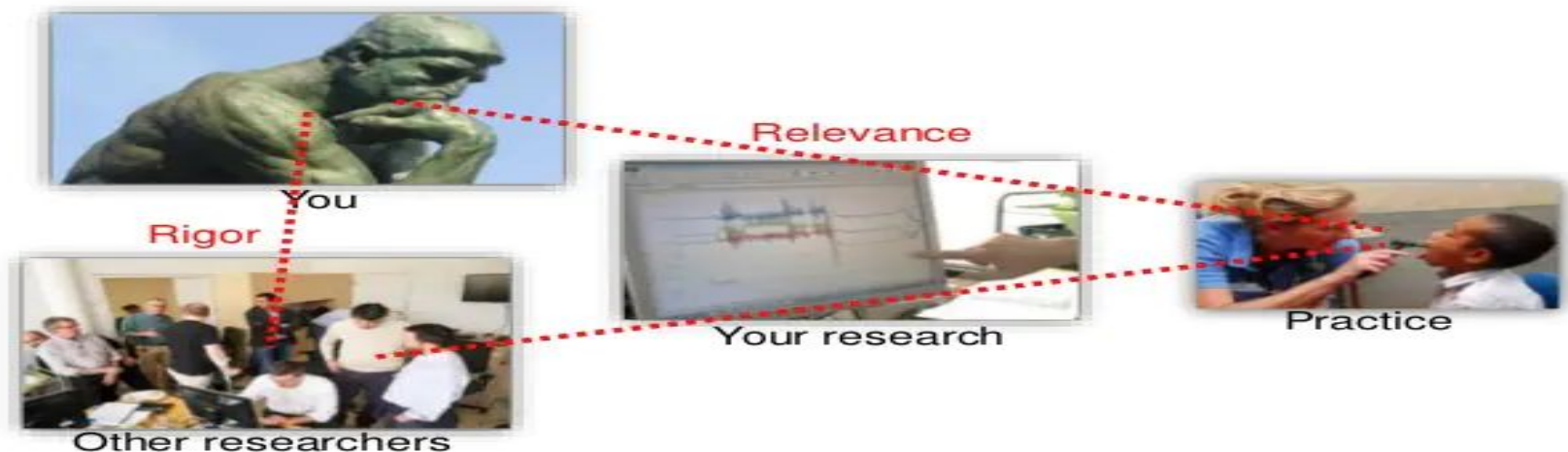


- **Sources : Books , Essays, Articles , Internet , Academic & Professional sites related to Topic / Discipline.**

Modes of Thought (Strategy # 3)

- Consider the Rhetorical Modes helps in organizing ideas in Writing & Speaking
 - ◆ Compare and Contrast
 - ◆ Process
 - ◆ Cause and Effect
 - ◆ Problem and Solution

The thinking man



Focussing & Supporting Research Question

❑ Focusing Question

- ❑ Supporting Question: Questions that will help to explore focussing questions in greater depth

Example :

- ❑ Focusing Question: How can the university community increase its economic impact on the Florence-Muscle Shoals community?
- ❑ Supporting Questions: How does the university currently impact the community economically? What could be done that isn't being done, and why? What are the limitations?

Remember as you G(r)o(w)...

- Make your question one that somebody else will want an answer to as well. They will be your AUDIENCE.
- Your PURPOSE is your reason for asking your question. The answer to your research question will be a complete statement expressed as a sentence – your THESIS.
- If you used a Rhetorical Mode to formulate your question, you should use that mode to ORGANIZE THE PARAGRAPHS of your paper (though you may certainly use other modes as you DEVELOP your ideas!)
- Most importantly, do not get discouraged or worried if you find your thesis or your beliefs changing- a natural process

Discussion Time !

Subquestions

- Subquestions are narrower questions that answer research questions.

Example:

Research Question: What are the health benefits of physical education in elementary, middle school, and high school in public education?

Subquestions:

1. What are the standards for physical education in Washington State?
2. Is there a difference between the amount time devoted to physical education in elementary, middle school, or high school?
3. Does physical education emphasize a certain type of exercise?

