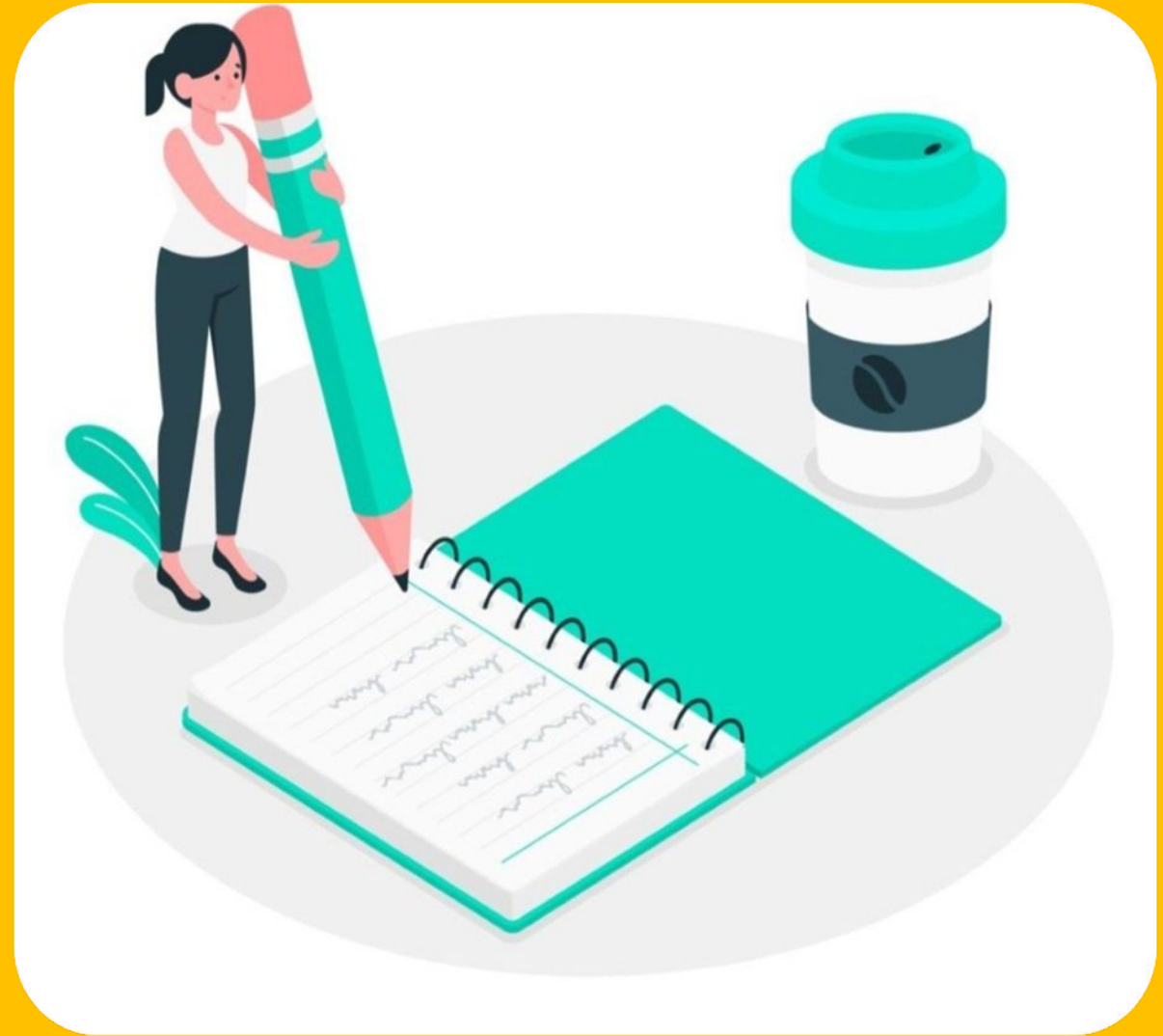


Research Writing & Library Skills

Week 4
Session 1



Agenda

- ✓ Elements of a research question;
- ✓ Creating a research question;
- ✓ Video discussion;
- ✓ Reading discussion;
- ✓ Grammar: Caution

Elements of a Research Question



A research question includes two parts:



1. The topic for your paper, usually in the form of a noun or noun phrase



2. The focus, which suggests what you will say about the topic and tells you what kind of information to look for as you read

TYPES OF FOCUS

Cause: This kind of question asks you to explain the causes or reasons for something.

Why do people become addicted to alcohol?

Effect: Writing about the consequences or effects of an event or action

What are the negative consequences of alcohol addiction?

- The writer using this research question will read sources looking for effects of alcohol addiction

Comparison: Your research question might ask you to compare two or more concepts.

How are attitudes toward drinking alcohol similar or different in the United States and Japan?

- The focus for this question is comparing attitudes in the two countries

Definition: Some research questions ask for an in-depth definition of a topic.

What are the signs of alcohol addiction?

- Here the focus is on explaining what alcoholism is, so the task is to define alcoholism

Classification: Other research questions are about ways of classifying a topic.

What are the different patterns of alcohol use?

- The evidence is about various ways people incorporate alcohol into their lives

Problem and Solution: A research question may present a problem and point toward solutions.

How can a person who is an alcoholic stop drinking?

- With this focus about the problem of how to stop using alcohol, the writer will read for information about ways to solve the problem of addiction

Process: A research question may ask how something is done or how something happens.

How does an individual become addicted to alcohol?

- Using this focus on how the addiction develops, the writer will search for information about the steps in becoming addicted to alcohol

Argument: Some research questions may be in a yes/no format and ask you to explain an opinion.

Should the legal age for drinking be lowered from 21 to 18?

- In this case, the focus is an opinion and why that opinion is right: The writer using this research question will decide his opinion about the question and look for information about why that opinion is correct.

Practice:

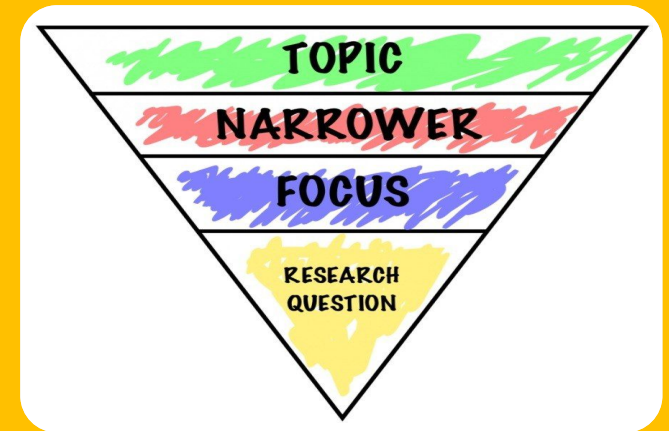
For each research question, identify the **Topic** and the type of **Focus**:

- Cause;
- Effect;
- Comparison;
- Definition;
- Classification;
- Problem and solution;
- Process;
- Argument;

And describe the **Kind of information**



TWO WAYS TO CREATE A RESEARCH QUESTION



Way 1: Consider the ideas you discussed with your groupmates

"The hero has an original perspective that distinguishes her from others who settle for agreement and conformity or are too beaten down to ask necessary questions. The relationship between the hero and the established order of things is fluid; she insists on her freedom to perceive, within the context of things-as-they-are, the way things could be."

-Polster, Miriam, 2001

What is a hero?

Way 2: Look at some of the sections you highlighted while reading

"Although experts have pinpointed these problems in frequent cell phone users, studies have yet to show if a bad cell phone habit constitutes an actual addiction. Yet as with traditional addictions, excessive cell phone use is associated with certain hallmark patterns of behavior, including using something to feel good, building up a tolerance and needing it more and more over time to get the same feeling, and going through withdrawal if deprived of it Merlo said."

-Birdwell, April Frawley, Health, Research Technology, 2007.

How do cell phones affect people in a harmful way?

Write one possible research question based on this extract from "If Poor Get Richer, Does World See Progress?"



"Rising consumption has helped meet basic needs and create jobs", says Christopher Flavin, president of the Worldwatch Institute, a Washington, D.C., think tank. "But as we enter a new century, this unprecedented consumer appetite is undermining the natural systems we all depend on and making it even harder for the world's poor to meet their basic needs."

-Knickerbocker, Brad, 2004

Video discussion

- ✓ Why do the rich get richer and the poor get poorer?
- ✓ Can it be changed?
- ✓ If yes, how?
- ✓ If no, why?
- ✓ If it is changed,
- ✓ will it affect people's life?



Reading Discussion

Now, read the article "*If Poor Get Richer, Does World See Progress?*"

What's the main idea proposed in the article?

Do you agree with the author's views?

Home assignment

Create possible Research Questions

✓ Go to Files Folder & Find the article

"If Poor Get Richer, Does World See Progress?" pages 185-186;

✓ Read the article & develop *4 possible Research Questions;*

✓ Choose 4 out of 8 Focus types: Cause; Effect; Comparison; Definition; Classification; Problem and solution; Process; Argument;

✓ After each research question, write down the topic and the focus.

The task looks like this:

1. Research question
2. Topic
3. Focus

Note: No citations for this task