

Developing a Research Question

Fill in the blanks below to create a research question.

1. Describe the problem you want to investigate.

2. Explain what you want to learn from your research.

3. Explain why your research question is worth asking.

4. Identify the central topics and population.

Consider the problem or issue you want to investigate. Name the central topics and population below.

Note: Your intervention topic should influence, change, or affect your main topic.

Main Topic _____

Intervention Topic _____

Population _____

5. Draft your research question.

Fill in the blanks below to write your research question.

RQ: How does _____ affect _____ in _____?
(your intervention topic) (your main topic) (your population)

NOTE: You may need to change the order of your intervention topic and your main topic, depending on what makes more sense for your research.

6. Evaluate your question with the Research Question Evaluation Criteria.

- | Yes | No | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. My question includes two topics and a population. | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. My question asks a single question. | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. My question allows for different outcomes. | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. My question does not have a single answer. | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. When I searched my topics and population in SuperSearch (http://bit.ly/advanced-supersearch), I got fewer than 800 peer-reviewed articles.
No? Consider including one of the following in your population:
<table border="0"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Age</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Religion</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Gender</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Symptom</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Location/Geography</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Time</td></tr></table> | <input type="checkbox"/> Age | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Symptom | <input type="checkbox"/> Location/Geography | <input type="checkbox"/> Time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Symptom | <input type="checkbox"/> Location/Geography | <input type="checkbox"/> Time | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | f. When I searched my topics and population in SuperSearch, I got more than 50 peer-reviewed articles.
No? Look at a more general population or examine one of your topics from a higher level (e.g., instead of employee vacation time, use general employee benefits). | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | g. When I searched my topics and population in SuperSearch, I got at least three items on the first page of results that include information about both topics and the population.
No? Brainstorm alternative terms for each topic (e.g. adolescent or youth, instead of teenager), then perform additional searches. | | | | | | | | | |

7. Revise your research question.

Revise your research question until you are able to answer yes to all Research Question Evaluation Criteria. Fill in the blanks below to write your updated research question.

RQ: How does _____ affect _____ in _____?
(your intervention topic) (your main topic) (your population)

8. Link to your search results.

Note: the URL at the top of the page will not work.

Instead, copy the permalink using these instructions: <http://bitly.com/library-permalink>

Permalink: _____

9. Share your relevant sources.

Scan the first page of your search results. Copy and paste the titles of **three** relevant sources related to your main topic, intervention topic, and population.
