

## Worksheet: Compose a Research Question

When approaching research, consider a topic that interests you and develop a research question that motivates you to explore it in detail and keeps you intellectually stimulated throughout the length of your research. Your research question should be unique, one that has not been researched before. You want to make sure your question or topic is neither too narrow nor too broad. If it's too narrow, there won't be enough resources to consult, and if it's too broad, you will never have the time to complete it.

A helpful strategy to narrow down your research question is to ask yourself **What, Who, Why, When,** and **Where** questions. The table below provides examples of questions to ask when developing a research question.

Prompting Question	Explanation (Ask and answer one or more of these questions)
<b>What?</b>	What is your research about? What are you interested in exploring? What are the key areas of investigation in your research?
<b>Who?</b>	Who does this research concern? Who is my main demographic?
<b>Why?</b>	Why is this research important? Why do I want to explore this topic? Why is this phenomenon I'm studying happening?
<b>When?</b>	What time period does this research cover?
<b>Where?</b>	What geographical region does this research cover? In which part of the world is my research relevant? Where is this phenomenon happening?

## Worksheet

Based on the examples provided above, use this table to answer questions about your topic and then compose your own research question. Fill out your answers to your topic:

**Topic of Interest:**

<b>Prompting Question</b>	<b>Explanation</b> (Ask and answer one or more of these questions)
<b>What?</b>	<b>What is my research about?</b>
<b>Who?</b>	<b>Who does this research concern?</b>
<b>Why?</b>	<b>Why is this research important?</b>
<b>When?</b>	<b>What time period does this research cover?</b>
<b>Where?</b>	<b>In which part of the world is my research relevant?</b>

**Example of research question:**