Name:

## Assignment: Research Questions & Sources

For this assignment you will select a topic of interest and write 3 research questions. The research questions should be on the same topic, but can be from different perspectives. Select one research question from your list and develop a plan for identifying sources. This assignment is worth 50 points. Refer to the rubric to understand the grading criteria and expectations. This assignment is due in Module 4.

For guidance in completing this assignment, refer to Learning Unit 4 and Chapter 1 of your text, *Choosing & Using Sources: A Guide to Academic Research*.

## Writing your Research Question

1. Begin by writing out your topic as a question.

You often have to write out your question many times from different perspectives before you can settle on what it is you want to research. Are you having difficulty forming your topic into a question? Complete the following sentences (A-C) to help you discover your question:

A. I am studying *(state what your broad topic is)* …

B. in order to find out *(use the standard 5 W's- who, what, where, when, why)* …

C. in order to help my audience understand *(motivate your question, why does your audience need to know this)* …

D. My research question is *(use the ideas in A-C to form a research question)* …

2. Fill in the table with the first research question. Then develop 2 additional research questions focusing on the same topic, but from different perspectives. Examine each research question for how interesting they are to you, whether they have adequate focus, are neither too broad nor too narrow for the assignment, and can be adequately researched with the search tools available to you. Complete the table. (1)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Research Questions** | Is it interesting to you? | Does it have focus? | Is it too broad or too narrow? | Can it be researched? |
| Research Question 1: |  |  |  |  |
| Research Question 2: |  |  |  |  |
| Research Question 3: |  |  |  |  |

## Plan for Sources (30)

3. Choose 1 research question and develop a plan for sources. Identify your information needs by answering the questions in the table.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Research Question:** | | | |
| Information Needs | Kinds of sources (Popular, Professional, or Scholarly) that should meet each need | Publication formats likely to be helpful in meeting each need | Where to look? |
| To learn more background information |  |  |  |
| To answer your research question and convince your audience |  |  |  |
| To report what others have said |  |  |  |
| To describe the situation and why it's important |  |  |  |

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(30) [Choosing & Using Sources: A Guide for Academic Research](https://bb.fscj.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-6153084-dt-content-rid-38543860_1/courses/LIS1001Development_OER/DownloadableItems/Teaching%20%26%20Learning%20Required%20Reading/Choosing-and-Using-Sources-1-Research-Questions.pdf) by Ohio State University Libraries is licensed under [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).