

Research Question

Online course learning objectives

Equips researchers with the skills and knowledge they need to form and articulate a clear and concise research question that's relevant, interesting and fundamentally researchable.

This course will help learners to:

- Recognize the importance of a strong research question and how this can benefit investigation
- Evaluate different factors to select and refine a suitable research topic
- Identify the features of a good research question
- Formulate a hypothesis within their research question and identify the variables within their research
- Turn a research topic into a tangible research question
- Form a research question that is appropriate for their topic, plausible in terms of scope and resources, and a solid foundation for gaining insight
- Critique and evaluate their own research question according to a set of criteria

Language: English

Time to complete: 4 hours

Instructor: Dr Zina O'Leary

Level: Beginner

Online course full syllabus

MODULE ONE: WHAT TOPICS ARE RIGHT FOR RESEARCH?

Evaluate different factors when selecting a possible research topic and use these factors to refine your topic.

Topics:

1. Picking a topic
2. Topical inspiration
3. Inspiration from reading

MODULE TWO: WHAT IS THE POWER OF A RESEARCH QUESTION?

Recognize the benefits of a clear and focussed research question and identify how these benefits can help you in your investigation.

Topics:

1. Research is a decision-making journey
2. Define an investigation
3. Set boundaries
4. Set direction

Research Question

MODULE THREE: HOW DO I ARTICULATE MY RESEARCH QUESTION

Identify the features of a good research question and narrow down your ideas to articulate your research question.

Topics:

1. Clarity and specificity
2. From interesting topics to researchable questions
3. The need to define

MODULE FOUR: DO I NEED A HYPOTHESIS?

Formulate a hypothesis within your research question and identify the variables within your research.

Topics:

1. What is a hypothesis?
2. Relationships between variables
3. When a hypothesis is not appropriate

MODULE FIVE: DIY – WRITE YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION

Turn your research topic into a question ready to be researched.

Topics:

1. Step 1: Gathering it up
2. Step 2: Pulling it together
3. Step 3: Narrowing it in
4. Step 4: Cleaning it up

MODULE SIX: HOW DO I KNOW MY QUESTION IS ANY GOOD?

Critique and evaluate your own research question according to a set of criteria.

Topics:

1. Is the question right for me?
2. Is the question right for the field?
3. Is the question well-articulated?
4. Is the question doable?