Developing your Research Question

To be used alongside the ‘Developing your Research Question’ 2020 video. Please do not skip ahead as this will spoil some of the activities.



Name

Learning Objectives (Slide 2)

Objectives

* Identify the process of turning an idea into a researchable question
* Apply the process to your topic area
* Discuss the different types of research questions suitable for a research project
* Start to think about whether your title should be a question or statement

Finding your question (Slide 3)

To formulate a question for your research project, first, you need to identify a topic area:

* What might be a good topic and why?
* What are you trying to find out?
* What aspects of the topic are you interested in?
* How is it relevant to you in work/to society?
* Are there two topics that you want to combine?
* List possible areas of interest, choose 2 or 3 topics, then do preliminary research, brainstorm & narrow down.

Notes:

Finding your Question: Veganism example (Slide 4)

What are you trying to find out?

* Is a vegan diet safe for your health
* Will a vegan diet stop development in children
* Is it better to be vegan than non-vegan

What might be a good topic and why?

* Is a vegan diet safe for kids?
* Are child vegans healthier than non-vegan children?



Are there two topics that you want to combine?

Veganism

What aspects of the topic are you interested in?

* How veganism affects growth and development

How is it relevant to you in work/to society?

* Veganism is on the rise across the world
* I am a vegan

Notes:

Activity 1: Brainstorm your research topic using the points on page 2



Notes:

Finding your question: Veganism (Slide 6)

Why are you interested in the topic?

Because I am a vegan. Veganism has also been on the rise in the past few years and it would be interesting to find out how it is affecting children’s growth and development.

Resources Available?

I have access to the library where I can find books on veganism and how it affects your body. I also have access to the internet to find scientific journals in places such as google scholar. These journals will allow me to get up to date information to help me with my research.

Time available?

I have quite a bit of time and if I spread it out evenly I will be able to do my research, analyse it and write it all up in time. I will have to create a timetable to organise my time effectively.

Research expertise/Researchable?

I don’t know much about this specific topic area so I will have to do a lot of research to find out who knows more information in this field. I will do this by using books, e-books, websites and various articles and journals.

Participant availability?

I will interview people that I know who have brought up their children vegan and interview people who have not in order to compare reasons why/why not and their opinions.

Motivation?

I would like to find this information out as I am vegan and I hope to bring up my children vegan, however I have concerns that child development is affected by this.

Significance of the issue?

If the case is that it does affect child development in a negative way, it should be brought to light as this may be a cause for concern. However if the results show that it impacts child development positively, we will know that the world should be moving towards a more vegan lifestyle as it is very beneficial.

Ethical considerations and cooperation of others?

I don’t believe that I will be using others so I won’t have to consider this.

Notes:

Activity 2: Finding your question (Slide 7)

To help you to find your research question, follow the lines of enquiry below. If you get really stuck, this could mean that your topic is not researchable. If that happens, repeat the process with a new topic until you can answer all of these queries.

Why are you interested in the topic?

What resources are available to you?

How much time do you have?

Will you need any special skills or expertise?

What is motivating your research?

What is the significance of the issue?

What are the ethical considerations? Do you need the cooperation of others?

If you need participants, what is their availability like? How will you access them?

Ultimately, is the topic researchable? If so, consider whether it has already been done.

Notes:

Activity 3: Brainstorm some possible questions related to your topic (Slide 9)



Research questions related to your topic

Notes:

Summary (Slide 14)

You should be able to:

* Identify the process of turning an idea into a researchable question
* Apply the process to your topic area
* Discuss the different types of research questions suitable for a research project
* Decide whether your title should be a question or statement

Thank you for completing our Developing a Research Question workshop, we hope you enjoyed it and learned something new!

If you have any questions please send them to [www.sli.do](http://www.sli.do/) and enter #ResearchQuestion and one of the team will get back to you as soon as they can. Alternatively, you can email outreach@essex.ac.uk

Outstanding Questions