

Guide to Evaluate Your Own Research Question

Ask the following eight questions to evaluate the quality of your research question and the ease with which you should be able to answer it:

1. Does the question deal with a topic or issue that interests me enough to spark my own thoughts and opinions?

Yes, I think the topic is interesting and informative.

2. Is the question easily and fully researchable?

I think provided the data is accessible it can be fully researched. I am a little worried that it may be too complicated though.

3. What type of information do I need to answer the research question?

How is GDP contribution calculated
Statistics on immigration over multiple years
Statistics on first generation employment
Statistics on first generation income

4. Is the scope of this information reasonable (e.g., can I really research 30 online writing programs developed over a span of 10 years?)

If the data is accessible yes.

5. Given the type and scope of the information that I need, is my question too broad, too narrow, or okay?

I think the question may need a little more refinement as I do more research.

6. What sources will have the type of information that I need to answer the research question (journals, books, Internet resources, government documents, people, etc.)?

Mostly online databases. Perhaps if I take a more comparative approach to political claims, I might also need quotes and videos for context.

7. Can I access these sources?

I know I can get raw census data, and I think most of what I need will be there.

8. Given my answers to the above questions, do I have a good quality research question that I will be able to answer by doing research?

Yes, I think so.