

What is a good research question?

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# Few remarks

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1. This assignment is a literature research
2. You have to write a research paper consisting of 1000 words
3. You work in a group of four
4. A topic with enough literature sources and a regional or online issue
5. Deadline: December 8

# Paper organization

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## LITERATURE RESEARCH

### Introduction

- Research question
- Societal relevance
- Scientific relevance
- Sub-questions
- Organization paper

### Research location

### Research population/subject

### Methods

- Literature analysis

### Literature research

### Conclusion

### Literature list

### Log

## FIELDWORK + ANALYSIS

### Introduction [adjust]

- Research question
- Societal relevance
- Scientific relevance
- Sub-questions
- Organization paper

### Research location

### Research population/subject

### Methods

- Literature analysis
- Observation
- Experiment
- Etc.

### Literature research

### Data analysis

### Conclusion [adjust]

### Literature list [adjust]

### Log

# Steps in crafting a research question

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Talk about topics

Climate

Narrow it down

Global warming

Even more

Man's influence on climate

Describe what you want to research

The impact of consumerism on global warming

Try to capture it in a research question

What is the impact of consumerism on global warming?

\* Use a mindmap to visualize your thinking process

# Types of research questions

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1. Descriptive – How do the Dutch treat the dead?
2. Explanatory – Why has cremation gotten more popular than burial over the years in The Netherlands?
3. Advisory – How can The Netherlands make funerals more payable?

Come up with a descriptive, explanatory and advisory questions for the following clips:

Fishing for Bikes in the Amsterdam Canals

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrxFT5EQxgl>

Banking on Cheese

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzBPdU\\_iVcl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzBPdU_iVcl)

No Roads, No Cars, Just Boats

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3t1cg2ZOxc>

Inside Italy's Handmade Amusement Park

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMc5K\\_zUM48](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMc5K_zUM48)

# First step: What is a good research question?

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1. Is it a question that interests you?
2. Is the question an issue? (p.45)
3. Does it invite to know more about a subject than you already know?
4. Is it researchable?
5. Will you get an answer on the question in the given amount of time and materials you possess?
6. Is the question not too narrow or broad?
7. You can't answer the question with a simple yes or no?
8. The question is not suggestive?
9. Is the topic relevant to the local situation?

# Good question/Bad question

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1. What do antidepressants do to adolescents?
2. What is the effect of Prozac on the signal transmission in the brains of young people with clinical depression?
3. Why do athletes always run so fast?
4. Which causes underlie the speed of athletes?
5. How did Dutch literature develop since the 21<sup>st</sup> century and what is the effect of e-books on this?
6. How did the rise of e-books influence the development of Dutch literature since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

# Societal relevance & scientific relevance

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Try to convince your classmates of the relevance of your research question. You can use the following questions to help you:

- Is the question only important to you or also other people? Who are those people?
- Why would scientists be interested in your research question?
- For who is the outcome of your research question important? What gains are there?
- Are there any other arguments with which you can convince your classmates?

# Activity: Creating research questions

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1. Try to formulate a good research question according to the advise given to you two slides ago
2. Tell your classmates why your question meets the requirements
3. Do this by mentioning why it meets the requirement and do this for all of them
4. Pay attention to what other students are saying since you will be helping them formulate an even better question
5. Everybody gets a turn

# topics

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## POSSIBLE TOPICS

1. Belief Systems
2. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Loss
3. Climate Change
4. Conflict and Peace
5. Disease and Health
6. Education for All
7. Employment
8. Family and Demographic Change
9. Fuel and Energy
10. Humans and Other Species
11. Language and Communication
12. Law and Criminality
13. Poverty and Inequality
14. Sport and Recreation
15. Technology and the Economic Divide
16. Trade and Aid
17. Tradition, Culture and Identity
18. Transport and Infrastructure
19. Urbanisation
20. Water, Food and Agriculture

## ACTIVITY

Write down five topics that interest you

Try to understand why these topics interest you

Later: Talk in groups of four about the topics you are interested in.

What have you learned about yourself from this conversation?