

## Formulating a research question

# Leading questions for the precise formulation of research questions

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Asking yourself the following questions will help you approach your research question:

- What exactly do you want to find out?
- Which answers do you think you might find? Where might you find the answers?
- How will you be able to answer the question? Using which tools?
- What is your hypothesis? What might the answers be?
- Which aspects of the theme could be relevant?
- Which connections or correlations would you like to highlight? Why?
- What do you not yet know that you would like to find out?

## Asking specific questions: the questions

You can use different writing techniques to develop several research questions at the same time. A good possibility is the associatively created 'catalogue of questions', which is closely based on free-writing:

1. First write down a series of simple questions, e.g. what you expect from the topic/work. You should give free rein to your thoughts without paying attention to exact formulations or content criteria. This associative series can be continued until a predetermined time limit is reached.
2. You should then read through all the questions again and delete those that have little or nothing to do with the topic of the paper.
3. Write out the most important points and use them to create a second questionnaire. This time you should focus on your topic and ask specific questions (so-called 'focused free-writing'). You should make assumptions, develop ideas further, even if not yet in the form of questions...
4. In the final step you can try to integrate the most important points into an existing text. Ask concrete questions about your work and consider whether your text has already answered these questions sufficiently well.

With the 'Question Catalogue Method' you can reflect on your writing process at any time, e.g. to check the current question or simply collect new ideas.

Source:

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