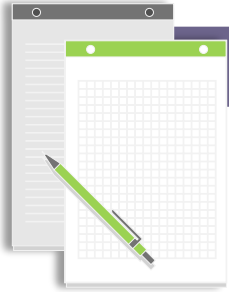




YPAR in School

Testing Your Research Question



Objective

To help students test their research question

Activity: Testing Your Research Question

Materials

- ❑ Handout “Testing Your Research Question: A Guide” 1 for each group

Pre-Activity

Have students write about the following prompt in their process journals:

From your preliminary research, what have you found out about your research question?

Is there a unique area that has yet to be investigated or is there a particular question that may be worth repeating?

Consider your audience. Always keep your audience in mind when narrowing your topic and developing your question. Would that particular audience be interested in this question?

Start asking questions. Taking into consideration all of the above, start asking yourself open-ended “how” and “why” questions about your general topic. How did this happen? Why are things this way?

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Testing Your Research Question

Activity: Testing Your Research Question (cont.)

Activity

Have students gather in their small groups. Give each group one copy of the handout “Testing Your Research Question: A Guide”. Have students work in their groups to fill it out.



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Testing Your Research Question: A Guide

Question	Yes/No	Notes on how to improve or adjust your question
Does this question address an issue or problem that needs to be improved or solved?		
Is the question researchable? <i>You need to be able to collect information to answer this question</i>		
Is your research question clear? <i>Clear questions do not leave room for ambiguity or misinterpretation of what you will investigate.</i>		
Is your research question focused? <i>Focused questions tend to zoom in on a specific issue and indicate a specific place where the issue takes place and a specific group/person/community that is impacted by this issue.</i>		
Is your research question specific?		
Is your research question complex? <i>A complex question is one that can't be answered with a simple "yes" or "no" or by easily-found facts. Complex questions can't be looked up online and answered in a few factual sentences. They require your investigation and evaluation. If a quick Google search can answer a research question, it's likely not complex.</i>		
What resources will you need to address this question? Can you access them?		