



11th S2 RESEARCH PAPER

Humanities
Dept. Rubric –
[CLICK HERE](#)



RESEARCH QUESTION!

Alright, so you've chosen your topic. Let's get down to business! Tackle those resources and form your research question!



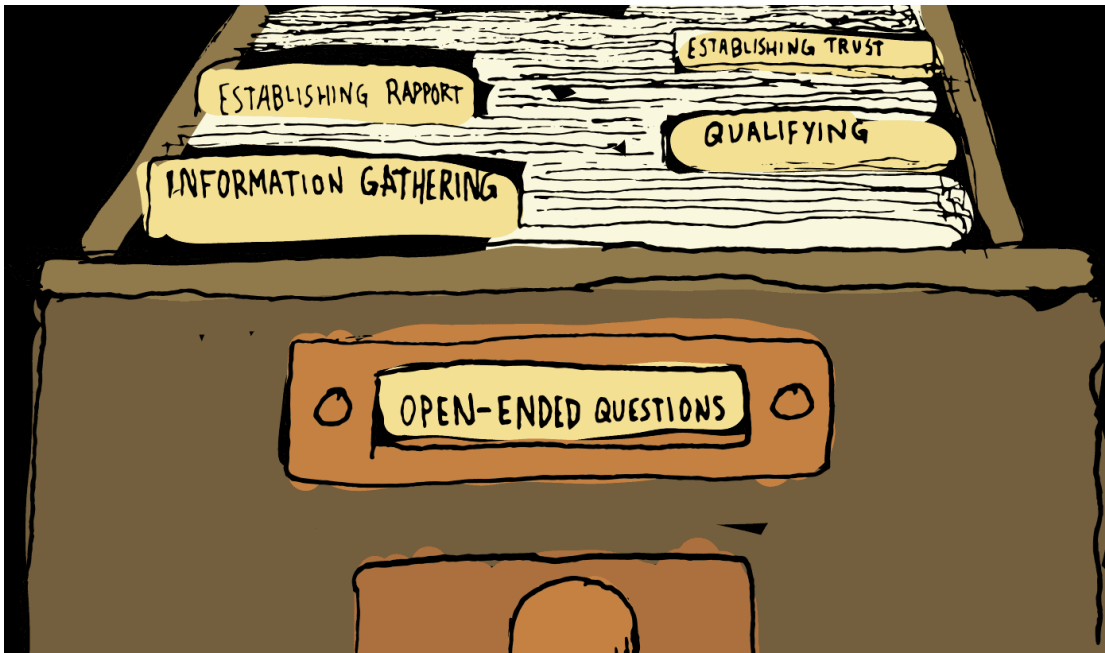
PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

You must read about your topic!

- There is a lot to know so you need to get a surface idea about your topic.

You must focus your topic!

- Think about subtopics.
- What questions does your preliminary research raise?
- What do you find interesting about your topic?



ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Begin with thinking
“How?” and/or
“Why?”

Consider the
“So What?”

- Why does your topic matter to you? Why should it matter to others?



**EVALUATE YOUR
QUESTION**

Specify

Clarify

Focus

Complexity (no
simple “yes” or
“no” answers
will do)

WHAT IF? WHAT
WHAT WHAT IF? //
IF? WHAT IF?

HYPOTHESIZE

If you're making an argument, what will you say?

Why does your argument matter?

What kind of sources do you need?

How might others challenge you?



SAMPLE: CLARITY

Unclear: Why are social networking sites harmful?

Clear: To what extent are online users experiencing or addressing privacy issues on social networking sites like Facebook and Instagram?



FOCUS

SAMPLE: FOCUSED

Unfocused: What is the effect on the environment from global warming?

Focused: To what extent is glacial melting affecting penguins in Antarctica?



SAMPLE: SIMPLE VS. COMPLEX

Too simple: How are doctors addressing diabetes in the U.S.? (also very vague!)

Appropriately complex: What are common traits of those suffering from diabetes in America, and how can these commonalities be used to aid the medical community in prevention of the disease?

COMMAND TERMS

It is important to keep your question open-ended, and to do this, you can consider the following “command terms”:

- “To what extent...”
- “Consider...”
- “What is the significance...”
- “In what ways...”
- “Distinguish..”
- “Account for...”
- “Which...”