Developing Research Questions and Finding Background Information

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Objectives:

• Identify the process for writing meaningful research questions.
• Evaluate research questions.
• Find background source(s)
How to Develop a Good Research Question

• Narrow your topic by asking open-ended “how” and “why” questions.

• Is the question one that is of interest to you and others?

• Is the research question researchable?

• Is the question measurable and will the process produce data that can be supported or contradicted?

• Use background sources to build your knowledge about the topic. Review the information and consider what you want to investigate further.
Examples:

• What is the relationship between trauma and anxiety disorders in children?

• What is the relationship between anxiety disorders in children and a history of anxiety amongst one of their parents?

• What is the relationship between anxiety disorders and food insecurity in children?
Background Sources

• Visit the library guide for this course.
  http://libraryguides.unh.edu/introductiontopsychology

• Use Access Science and/or Encyclopedia Britannica to learn more about your topic.
Assignment

• Before class on March 9\textsuperscript{th} do the following:

1. Choose a topic or two that interests you.
2. Develop three researchable questions for your topic(s)
3. Look at a background source for your topic(s)
4. Print or save copies of your background sources.
5. Bring sources and research questions to class
Writing a Good Research Question

https://cirt.gcu.edu/research/developmentresources/tutorials/question