



**Steps to Writing a Research Question:** Please answer the questions below before you draft your research question. Use a reference article to help you with this information.

I've narrowed my topic to this time period:

I am focusing on this geographic area:

I am interested in these facets of my topic (eg: innovation, protest, strategy, environment, etc.):

My topic connects to these historical lenses (eg: cultural, social, political economical, etc.):

This event, action, or choice impacted:

The cause and context of my topic is:



**Research Question Elements:** Please synthesize the information from each section above into one overall research question.

Historical Context Connection to Your Topic:

Causes/Consequences (Cause and Effect) of Your Topic:

Theme Connection of Your Topic:

**Research Question Draft:** *it MUST be clear, specific, and arguable*

*Helpful Language: Cause, Effect, Compare, Impact, Change, Influence, Challenge*

	<i>Questions to Ask of the Past</i>
<b>WHO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... benefited from this?</li> <li>... was harmed by this?</li> <li>... made the decisions about this?</li> <li>... was most directly affected?</li> <li>... reported about this at the time?</li> <li>... 's perspective does the narrative represent?</li> <li>... 's voice was not heard from about this?</li> </ul>
<b>WHAT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... were the causes and consequences of this?</li> <li>... were the conditions at the time?</li> <li>... were the obstacles to this?</li> <li>... was another alternative explanation?</li> <li>... were arguments for and against this?</li> <li>... was most significant about this?</li> <li>... judgements are stated/implied in the narrative?</li> <li>... language is used to describe this?</li> <li>... is left out of the narrative?</li> <li>... assumptions are embedded in the narrative?</li> </ul>
<b>WHERE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... did this take place?</li> <li>... were similar situations or events?</li> <li>... can we find more information/corroboration?</li> <li>... was this narrative about it developed?</li> </ul>
<b>WHY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... was this important?</li> <li>... is this relevant to us today?</li> <li>... was it described in this way?</li> <li>... was this allowed to happen?</li> <li>... is there a need to re-examine this today?</li> </ul>
<b>HOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... did this impact history at the time?</li> <li>... is this period of time labeled?</li> <li>... might other people label this period of time?</li> <li>... did this harm different people?</li> <li>... did this help people?</li> <li>... do we know about this?</li> <li>... does this affect us now?</li> <li>... can we learn from this?</li> <li>... can we rectify or address injustices from this?</li> </ul>

## STRONGER AND CLEARER

Each time you talk to a partner, you build from and borrow the ideas and language of previous partners. Try to make your answer *stronger each time* with better and better evidence, examples, and explanations; and try to make your idea *clearer each time* by using historical context, historical significance, and connection to the theme. You can also ask each partner to elaborate, clarify, explain, and/or provide more evidence.

Name	Question/Prompt
Me	<i>Research Question Draft:</i>
1.	<i>Ideas, evidence, and language from this person that will help my idea to be stronger and clearer:</i>
2.	<i>Ideas, evidence, and language from this person that will help my idea to be stronger and clearer:</i>
3.	<i>Ideas, evidence, and language from this person that will help my idea to be stronger and clearer:</i>

### Student Self-Assessment

- During the activity, my research question became *stronger*. I borrowed and built on ideas from my partners to strengthen my idea (e.g., better or more evidence). How?

- During the activity my research questions became *clearer*. I borrowed and used language from my partners (and/or texts) to make my idea *clearer*. For example...

## Research Question Reflection

Now you must take the time to critique and analyze your research question. This can be uncomfortable and hard, but remember this is part of your growth mindset and you will learn so much from the process!

What is your first research question?

Does your research question directly relate to the theme?

- Yes
- No

Justification/Explanation:

Do you present a specific and arguable question? If so, what can you argue?

Please read your research question outloud to yourself. Does it make sense?

- Yes
- No

Justification/Explanation:

**Research Question Revision:** Write your final stronger and clearer response below. You can use your notes to write it. After you finish, compare your two responses and notice if and how the second research question became stronger (more evidence and detail) and clearer (better language).

- Historical
- Not google-able
- Connects to the theme
- Arguable
- Not a WHAT question