

## Formulating a Research Question

### **Assignment:**

This assignment builds off of the skills we have been developing on previous projects. This time you will formulate your own research question. The research question is what you are trying to find out or prove about your topic. Remember, a good research question is:

- 1) broad enough that it requires sustained research because it does not have a simple answer,
- 2) and it also drives the research itself because it encourages you to think about your topic in ways that lead to other questions that you will answer as part of answering the research question itself.

Your research question can come from any of the units we have done since the Renaissance, so you can choose a topic from:

Age of Exploration / European sailors  
China  
Africa  
Reformation  
Scientific Revolution

The research question must be typed in **Boldface** in the introductory paragraph of your article as well as in NoodleTools. The information that answers the question will be in a 1 ½ to 2 page article that will be double spaced in size 12 font with MLA style in source citations to indicate sources used. All rules of grammar apply, so proofread carefully. Moreover, your conclusion has to summarize your findings that answer your research question.

### **Organizing information:**

There is more information about your subject than can fit within two pages, therefore you must first read and then determine what is critical. Then you must organize and present the information in a logical fashion. That should include linking the information you are presenting to your research question so it is apparent how the information addresses the question.

### **Bibliography:**

You will be creating both a bibliography (using *MLA advanced*) and note cards in NoodleTools for the information that will appear in your article. Remember, to cite any article from a database you to identify your source as a book, a magazine, a reference source, et cetera. Therefore you must look at the information in source citation in the database article to determine what the article is from. You will still be annotating one website, just like on the last project.

### **Citations:**

All information used in the article must be cited. In scholarly work, the writer always indicates the source of information used beyond things that are common knowledge.

When you want to cite something, you put the author's last name and a two or three word condensed title in parentheses after the information being cited.

**Notecards:**

- One source per note card – source cited in bibliography
- Cite source on notecard / link to source
- One topic per notecard
- Title the note card
- The paraphrase should be done in bullets on the whole article

**Important Things To Remember:**

1. All of this needs to be in your own words - **NO DIRECT QUOTES**
2. There will be four separate pages
  - Cover page
  - Two pages of article (text only)
  - Bibliography page (remember that only one of the entries, the free website you found, must be fully annotated)
3. Read the directions carefully to make sure you include all parts
4. You need to think about what information is important to include
5. Manage your time wisely
6. Project will be done in Google Docs before being uploaded to Turnitin!
7. You will submit your article to Turnitin! on our last day in the LMC.

**Score:**

Text of article \_\_\_\_\_ / 50 points

Research question (due April 10, 2015) \_\_\_\_\_ / 5 points

Note cards \_\_\_\_\_ / 10 points

Citations done properly \_\_\_\_\_ / 5 points

Bibliography \_\_\_\_\_ / 15 points  
(with one source annotated)

Uploaded to Turnitin! on time \_\_\_\_\_ / 10 points

Followed all directions without reminders \_\_\_\_\_ / 5 points

**Total \_\_\_\_\_ / 100 points**