

DEVELOPING RESEARCH QUESTIONS

For specific, relevant results

Getting Started




- Generate productive research questions that yield the info you need.

Guideline #1: Stay Focused



- ❑ Don't create a long, broad list
- ❑ Zoom in on one aspect of topic
- ❑ Stick to questions about that specific topic

Guideline #2: Investigate



- Avoid questions with 'yes' or 'no' answers
- Ask 5W-H questions

Guideline #3: Be Realistic



- Ask questions you can find answers to

Guideline #4: Check Sub-Headings



- ❑ In an article, indicate divisions of subject
- ❑ May give ideas for limiting your topic
- ❑ May spark new questions

Summary



- Generate productive questions
- Keep your questions on target
- Make them specific

Check for Understanding

- If you were researching the latest developments in food for the U.S. astronauts, which question would provide the most relevant information?
 - A. How is food freeze dried?
 - B. What is the history of hydroponic agriculture?
 - C. Do U.S. astronauts complain about food on missions?
 - D. What foods did U.S. astronauts eat during the last three space missions?

Check for Understanding

- “What input have astronauts had in the most recent experiments on space food?” is a more useful question than “Has space food changed since the 1960s?” because—
 - A. It is a broad, general question
 - B. It will yield specific information
 - C. It can be answered yes or no
 - D. It is about future events