



Research Questions

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- Once you have decided upon a few topics, then write a few different questions for each that you might ask of those topics.
- As a rule of thumb, avoid “what” or “where” questions, the “why” and “how” are better. Why might that be?

For instance:

Topic: Celebrity charities

Questions: How much impact do celebrity charities have on fighting poverty?

Why do celebrities want to found charities?

Where does the money from celebrity nonprofit organizations go?

Research Questions

- Once you have narrowed down those topics, you need to take a look at your questions once more and ask them a few questions of their own (this is called questioning the question):
 - Can this topic be researched?
 - Is this question too broad, or too narrow?
 - Does this question allow me to make an argument?

Research Questions

- Let's take a look at the research questions that we have from before:

How much impact do celebrity charities have on fighting poverty?

Why do celebrities want to found charities?

Where does the money from celebrity nonprofit organizations go?

- How well would these questions work?

Question 1

- How much impact do celebrity charities have on fighting poverty?
 - This question is a “how” question – a good start, however it is too difficult to measure, because the word impact is so broad – what kind of impact is being referred to: money, influence, power? And which celebrity charities?

Question 2

- Why do celebrities want to found charities?
 - This question asks a “why” question, which is good, and there would be plenty of material to work with here. It is too broad, however, meaning that you would need to narrow it down, and find a focus by looking at just a few celebrities, and charities.

Question 3

- Where does the money from celebrity nonprofit organizations go?
 - This question is far too narrow – even if you did a close study look at several organizations, you would only be summarizing information, and responding to a very basic question....you want a question that will force you to do some analysis and thinking!

Best Option

- Why do celebrities want to found charities?

Let's take this question, the best option so far, and revise it a bit...we need to make it an arguable question, and narrow it down a bit.

Why did Bono choose to start his nonprofit ONE, and how has it impacted the fight against poverty?

Let's try again with literature

- *The Great Gatsby*
 - Parties
 - Colors
 - Spirituality/religion
 - Cars

Creating a Question

- How is color a reflection of the internal feelings of characters throughout Gatsby?
- How do parties influence the plot and character development of Gatsby?
- What is the role of religion in Gatsby, and how is it portrayed by Fitzgerald, within the actions of the characters?