

Name _____

Developing a Research Question

Instructions: After watching the Developing a Research Question tutorial, complete the following 4 questions. (Tutorial available at: <https://library.methodistcol.edu/how-do-i> under “Topic Selection and Research Plan.”)

1. **My topic of interest:** _____

2. **Use one technique to explore your topic: free writing, 5Ws, or mind mapping**

5Ws: answer the following questions

Who does your topic impact? Who cares about your topic?

What is influenced by or influences your topic?

When was or is your topic relevant?

Where is your topic relevant?

Why is your topic important?

Free writing: write continuously for a set amount of time. Ignore grammar and spelling. Write what you know and identify gaps and questions to pursue.

Mind mapping: a visual form of brainstorming. Include related subtopics, concepts and words and connect to them to your topic.

3. **My preliminary research question:**

TIP: Your research question should be more formed than your initial topic of interest. Use your free writing, 5Ws, or mind map to help you formulate your research question.

4. **On the other side of this paper, please answer the following:**

Name _____

Based on your exploration of this topic so far, what do you need to learn more about in order to answer your research question? Write down at least two aspects of your topic that need further research.