

# Research Question

Why not instead refine your topic to one technique and frame a question that aims to explore that technique's efficacy? Exploring "Is hypnosis (or primal screaming, or group therapy or whatever) a valuable strategy to use in psychotherapy?" would do more justice to the assignment. And it would be easier to look for direct evidence in that area.

## EVALUATE YOUR OWN RESEARCH QUESTION

Ask the following 8 questions to evaluate the quality of your research question and the ease with which you should be able to answer it:

1. Does the question deal with a topic or issue that interests me enough to spark my own thoughts and opinions?
2. Is the question easily and fully researchable?
3. What type of information do I need to answer the research question?  
e.g., The research question, "What impact has deregulation had on commercial airline safety?," will obviously require certain types of information:
  - o statistics on airline crashes before and after
  - o statistics on other safety problems before and after
  - o information about maintenance practices before and after
  - o information about government safety requirements before and after
4. Is the scope of this information reasonable? (e.g., can I really research 30 on-line writing programs developed over a span of 10 years?)
5. Given the type and scope of the information that I need, is my question too broad, too narrow, or o.k.?
6. What sources will have the type of information that I need to answer the research question (journals, books, internet resources, government documents, people)?
7. Can I access these sources?
8. Given my answers to the above questions, do I have a good quality research question that I actually will be able to answer by doing research?

**Evaluation Tip: Contact your EE Mentor if you're not sure whether your research question fulfills the assignment.**