

Formulating a Research Question

What is a Research Question?










A research question is an analytical question that you work to answer in your paper. Your paper will analyze and explore possible answers to your research question.

How is a Research Question Different from a Thesis Statement?

A thesis statement is an argumentative statement that you work to *prove* in your paper. Unlike the research question, you must take a side and declare an argument with a thesis statement.

Steps to Formulating a Research Question

1. Start with a topic.
2. Narrow and focus your topic.
3. Formulate a question you want to ask about the topic.
4. Narrow the question, if possible.

	Example #1	Example #2
Topic 	Wireless Networking 	Cartoons 
Narrow/ Focus 	Wireless Networking and Security 	Cartoons and violence 
Research Question 	Are wireless networks secure? 	Are cartoons too violent? 
Narrow Question	Can wireless networks provide the necessary level of data security for Genentech?	How does violence in cartoons affect children?