

Research Skills

- Module 2
- Planning your research question
(PART 1)

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The Research Proposal

- consider and define a research question, and outline your initial ideas for the research
- consider and select research processes that are likely to be appropriate to your research question (i.e. valid, ethical, and manageable research processes).

Evidence could include:

- a mind map
- guiding questions
- a written statement
- an oral discussion
- a multimedia presentation,

that may lead to the development of, and incorporation in, a management plan.

Start planning your research

1. Initiate and plan your research - Planning

Plan your research by making decisions, seeking help, responding to and creating opportunities, and solving problems.

Planning

- Consideration and refinement of a research question.
- Planning of research processes appropriate to the research question.

Plan your research

- consider, select, and/or design research processes (e.g. qualitative and quantitative research, practical experimentation, fieldwork) that are appropriate to your research question.
- investigate and propose safe and ethical research processes.
- identify knowledge, skills, and ideas that are specific to your research question .
- identify people with whom to work (e.g. subject matter expert, a community expert, or a peer group) and negotiate processes for working together.
- plan the research in manageable parts.
- explore ideas in an area of interest.
- explore the concept of a capability or capabilities in the context of your research
- consider the form of and audience for the research outcome.

Formulate and refine a research question

Formulating and refining the question helps to focus your research.

A research question:

- could be based on an idea or issue, a technical or practical challenge, a hypothesis, creating an artefact, or solving a problem.
- may be an area of interest.
- may be linked to content in an existing subject, course or research area.

Refine your question, ensuring that the question lends itself to being researched and that the research is likely to be manageable and achievable. Refining a question may involve identifying a precise context, for example, place, type, age-group, or time period.

Ensure that the research question and processes proposed do not compromise the principles of honest, safe, and ethical research.

Your research question could be based on an idea or issue, a technical or practical challenge, a hypothesis, creating an artefact, or solving a problem.

The research question you choose will impact on the type of data you need to collect, the way you collect and record your data, what you analyse and how you present your results, and the support you need. This is particularly the case if you are researching to develop a physical product rather than research a theoretical question using observation or questionnaires.

Formulating a research question

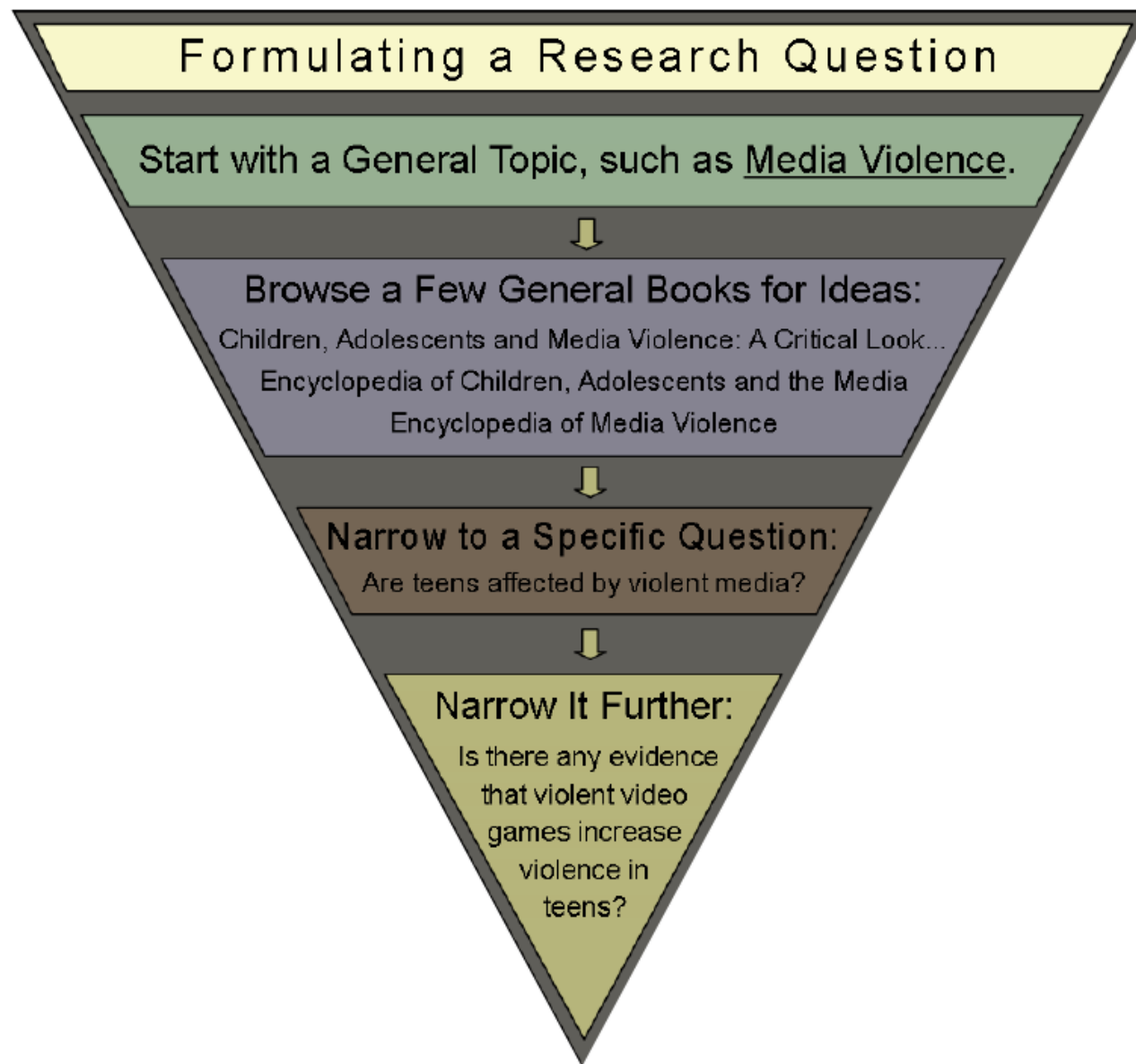
Research originates with an idea about some general problem or question. This problem or question is narrowed down to a more specific research question, which then represents the central issue being addressed.

First, it is important to distinguish between descriptive and analytical studies. Descriptive studies ask simpler questions about what is going on. For example, "How many or what proportion of

patients admitted to hospital with a fractured neck of femur are from a NESB?"

Analytical studies compare one or more interventions or exposures. For example, "Is it more effective to educate GPs about depression guidelines with group education sessions or practice visits?" or "Is lung cancer associated with cigarette smoking?"

Source: How to formulate a research question. Research Bites (Aug 2002). University of New South Wales. Available from: http://www.phcris.org.au/phcred/research_bites/research_bites_3.pdf



Source: <http://indwes.libguides.com/c.php?g=71141&p=458447>

Concept Map of Potential Research Topics

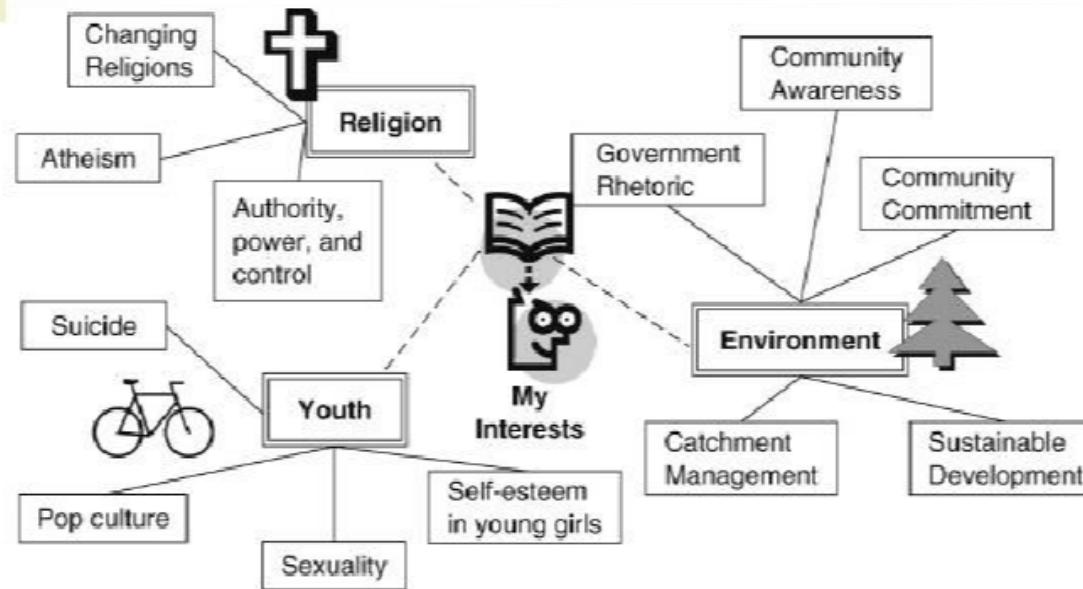


FIGURE 3.1 CONCEPT MAP OF POTENTIAL RESEARCH TOPICS

O'Leary, Z. (2004) *The Essential Guide to Doing Research*. London: Sage.
Chapter Three

Source: <https://www.slideshare.net/ebenimzo/formulating-research-questions>

Making your own research question concept map

Developing Your Research Question



I know what general area, but
I'm not sure of my research question?

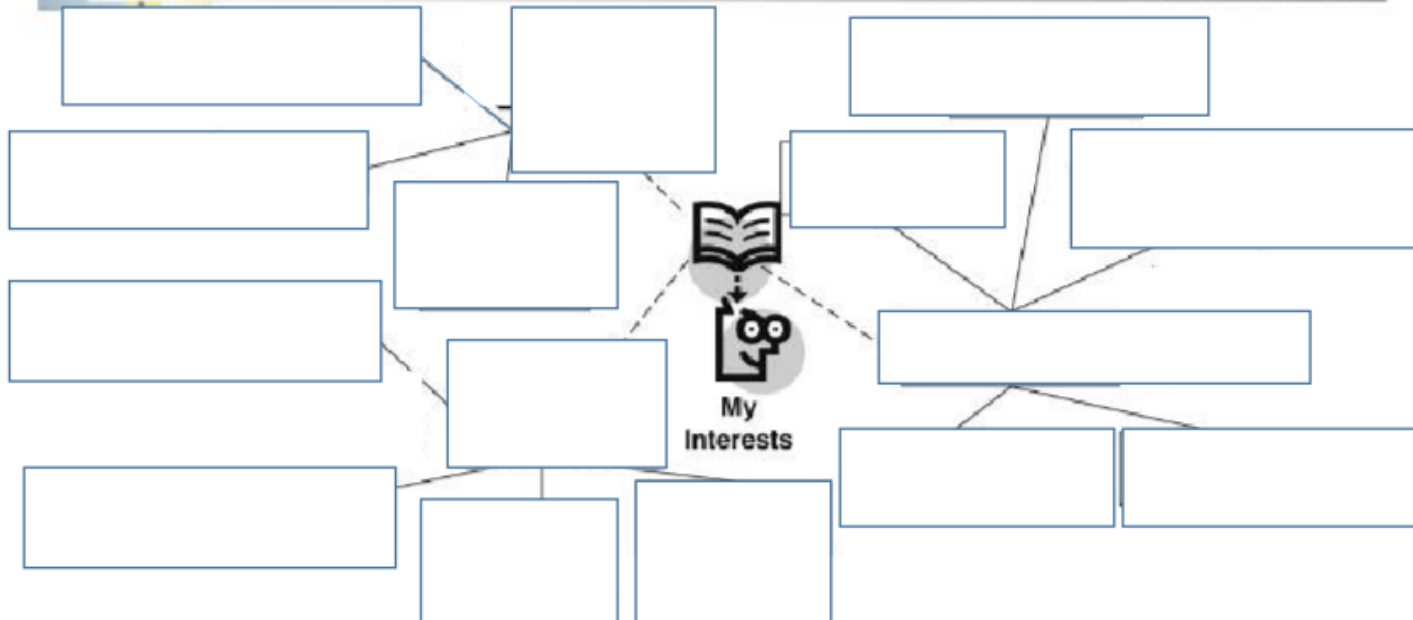
O'Leary, Z. (2004) The Essential Guide to Doing Research. London: Sage.
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Copy and paste this address into your internet search bar or click and load. There are 12 slides in this very helpful presentation.

<https://www.slideshare.net/ebenimzo/formulating-research-questions>

Make your own concept map of potential research topics or questions



Adapted from: **FIGURE 3.1** CONCEPT MAP OF POTENTIAL RESEARCH TOPICS

O'Leary, Z. (2004) *The Essential Guide to Doing Research*. London: Sage.
Chapter Three