

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Successful research involves more than just finding all the information about a topic. You will never be able to find—or read—everything. A narrow topic will keep your project to a manageable size. You can also use research questions to help focus your project.

Writing Research Questions

Research questions dig deeper into understanding not just what happened, but why it happened, how it was connected to other ideas or issues, and how it changed history. You can learn more about research questions and how to write them [on our website](#).

Before writing research questions, you will need to do some pre-research. The answers to these fact-finding questions will give you the basic information about your topic. You can't write research questions until you have done your pre-research.

WORKSHEET: WRITING RESEARCH QUESTIONS		
Part of Project	Sample: Rosa Parks	Your Topic
Long Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What issues or problems were the main players involved with your topic trying to change and why? 	What influence did the Civil Rights Movement have on activists in Montgomery before the bus boycott?	
Right Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What inspired or sparked the main players of your topic to take action and why? How was this topic a continuation of larger issues, trends, or movements that came before it? 	What inspired Rosa Parks and other leaders in the Civil Rights movement to fight for change in Montgomery?	
Main Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who supported it and why? Who did not support it and why? How was this event different from or similar to other things taking place at the time, or approaches others had taken? 	How were the events that took place in Montgomery different from or similar to other protests for civil rights?	
Right After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> So what? How did this topic change history? How was this topic a turning point in a larger issue, trend, or movement? How were the impacts of this topic felt differently by those involved or impacted? 	How did the Montgomery Bus Boycott change opinions about the Civil Rights Movement in the United States?	
Long After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did this topic inspire future movements, events, or changes? How has our understanding of the topic changed over time? 	What impact did the strategies that were used in Montgomery have on the movement?	