

Creating a Good Research Question

A. Starting Out - Problems and/or Issues

1. What areas of education/technology are you interested in?
2. What problems have you noticed/are you curious about?
3. Browse Some Articles
 - [Issues in Education](#) - Ontario
 - [Research for Teachers](#) – ETFO Podcasts
 - [Online Teacher Resource](#) – See Hot Topics in Education

B. Moving from Topic to Questions

4. Check out a Video
 - [Understanding and Creating Research Questions](#) (6:37)
 - [Developing a good research question](#) (3:49)
 - [Quick but useful suggestions](#) (5:03)
 - [Two student's Perspectives](#) (3:53)
5. Read an Article
 - [Creating your question](#) (under Defining Your Research Topic)
 - [Formulating a good research question](#)
6. Start writing
 - Start with the general topic and get more specific
 - Start expanding on what you mean
 - Ask yourself you are going to measure what you want to know? How are you going to collect the evidence?
 - Come up with a question
7. Search for Research Articles on Your Question
 - UOIT Library Data Base – [List of Databases and How to Use Them](#)

C. Example One

1. Topic

- Technology in Adult Education

2. Refine

- What specific kind of technology?
- What area of adult education?
- What behaviours do you want to look at? Attitude? Learning Performance?

3. More Specific Question

- What are higher education students' attitudes toward the use of Wikis?

4. Check out the research

- What has been looked at already?
- Is there anything new that needs to be examined?
- Are the methods sound? Valid or reliable?
- Is there something new to look at?

5. Final Question

- What are higher education students' attitudes toward the use of Wikis in **online learning environments**?

D. Example Two

1. Topic

- Smart Boards in Educations

2. Refine

- What are the Smart Boards used for? What is the purpose?
- What grades are they being used for?
- Are there different kinds of Smart Boards

3. More Specific Question

- What is the impact of using Electronic Whiteboards in elementary school classrooms?

4. Check out the research

- What has been looked at already?
- Is there anything new that needs to be examined?
- Are the methods sound? Valid or reliable?
- Is there something new to look at?

5. Final Question

- What is the **learning** impact of using Electronic Whiteboards in elementary school classrooms **for review**?