

When should you write your research questions?

- Typically, better at beginning of project
 - o After focus is chosen, background reading, designing of methodology, or gathering data
- But there are exceptions of course.
- IT CAN BE ITERATIVE
 - o But be open about the defining process

What is a good research question?

- Can be your hypothesis rephrased but with basis in existing theories and knowledge
- Matches methodology which matches background which matches data
- Original and of interest to field and outside world
 - o There is value in reproduction but outside the scope of this paper
- Clear, focused, and narrow
- The question is researchable
- Should allow for rich analysis instead of a curt description of an answer
- It has potential
 - o There is a future path of inquiry
- Ethical

What is an example of quantitative research questions?

- What and how many type questions.
- Typically, they have confirmatory framing
- Working hypothesis, hypothesis testing
- Can be descriptive, comparative and relationship based
- Measures responses of subjects to variables
- Presents variables to measure, analyze, or assess
- Clarifies difference between one group with outcome variable and another group without outcome variable

What are some examples of qualitative research questions?

- Why and how type questions
- Descriptive and subjective insights
- Contextual, Evaluation, Exploratory, Generative, Ethnographic, Case Study, Explanatory insights
 1. identify and describe existing conditions (contextual research questions);
 2. describe a phenomenon (descriptive research questions);
 3. assess the effectiveness of existing methods, protocols, theories, or procedures (evaluation research questions);

4. examine a phenomenon or analyze the reasons or relationships between subjects or phenomena (explanatory research questions); or
5. focus on unknown aspects of a particular topic (exploratory research questions)

Biggest Differences

- Qualitative methodology has more types of questions to ask and generate hypotheses
- Quantitative methodology is more aimed to test hypotheses
- quantitative research, research questions inquire about the relationships among variables being investigated and are usually framed at the start of the study.

Biggest Similarities

- Connected to available Data
- Connected to methodology
 - Which is connected to the Data type
- Connected to background
 - Which is connected to data and methodology

Discourse Analysis Specificities

- Any Method of research is to explore a domain, our domain is “language in use” (Gee ix)
- “Since human language is core to who humans are a species and as individuals it is also a theory of what a human being is.” (Gee ix)
- Looking at “Ways of being and doing”
- Discourse analysis must have a point
 - Illuminate nature of human beings
 - Contribute to understanding/intervention of important issues and problems

Additional Resources:

- Barroga, E., & Matanguihan, G. J. (2022). A Practical Guide to Writing Quantitative and Qualitative Research Questions and Hypotheses in Scholarly Articles. *Journal of Korean medical science*, 37(16), e121.
 - <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9039193/>
 - Also has examples of every type at the bottom
- University of Minnesota Libraries: Literature Searching: Characteristics of a good research question
 - <https://libguides.umn.edu/c.php?g=1337354&p=9854773>
 - Has additional resources linked including:
 - Books on the topic
 - research question building frameworks