



HOW TO CHOOSE A GOOD RESEARCH TOPIC



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1. INTRODUCTION

We Do Research Everyday!

Example:

Compare cell-phone models

Methods used:

- ask people for their opinions (survey)
- read user reviews
- search the internet (read up different sources), etc.

2. WHAT IS A RESEARCH PAPER?

A research paper is a piece of written *work* which represents the *results* of an *investigation* on a selected *topic*.



3. PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

We carry out research to:

- ✓ answer a certain question,
- ✓ solve an identified problem,
- ✓ understand the world around us,
- ✓ respond to current social demands,
- ✓ create and develop technology,
- ✓ meet academic requirements, etc.



4. ELEMENTS OF A GOOD RESEARCH TOPIC

You may feel confused and
anxious to pick a **“TOPIC”**
and get on with it.

DON'T WORRY!!!

HERE IS THE SOLUTION!



ELEMENTS OF A GOOD TOPIC

IF MISSING

INTEREST

Lose interest, no motivation to work on the project

FOCUS

The project is too broad and ends up being superficial

SIGNIFICANCE

Project will not be as interesting and outstanding compared to others

REASONABLE SCOPE

Project will run the risk of not being completed on time or impossible to implement

LITERATURE

Project may lack evidence to support claims

A- INTEREST IN THE TOPIC

CHOOSING A GENERAL TOPIC THAT MEETS THE TASK REQUIREMENTS

- Choose a general topic that you have a **genuine interest in**.
- Your **curiosity** is your greatest **intrinsic motivation** to embark on the research paper task and complete it well.



WHERE TO FIND IDEAS FOR AN INTERESTING TOPIC?

- Newspapers and magazines
- Articles from journals
- Internet
- Radio / Television programmes / Movies
- Personal interests / Passion
- Common beliefs or practices (observation)
- Everyday Life events

Example: Social networking



B- FOCUS THE TOPIC

DEFINING A GENERAL TOPIC TO BECOME CLEAR AND FOCUSED

- Ask who, what, when, where, why and how about the topic to arrive at some sub-topics.
- Focus the sub-topic further to form a specific question for your project work.



Example

General Topic

Social Networking

Sub-topic:

Facebook

Specific topic:

Facebook Addiction



Focusing the sub-topic further:

- 1. Who are addicted to Facebook?
- 2. Why are they addicted?
- 3. What are the effects of their addiction?
- 4. Where and when do they use Facebook?
- 5. How can they overcome their addiction?



Specific scope from sub-topic:

How does Facebook adiction affect students' academic performance?

Why is a focused topic important?

- It helps you to be clear about exactly what your research paper seeks to investigate.
- It guides you whenever you are confused or lost.



C- SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TOPIC

- When you choose a certain topic for research, you need to give a **reason** for your choice.
- A good reason is one that can explain the **significance** of the chosen topic.



HOW TO BRING OUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A TOPIC?

1. Set your research project in an **important context**.

Example:

- ✓ “*Curbing Facebook addiction*”
 - ✓ “*Curbing Facebook addiction among 2nd year students*”
2. Show how your research paper **adds value** to what others already know.



3. Clarify how your research project addresses certain knowledge gaps

Example:

*People generally know the harmful effects of Facebook usage, but they may not be clear about the reasons **why** addiction occurs in the first place.*

4. Explain the implications of your research for society, community, and/or certain groups of people.



D- REASONABLE SCOPE

When considering the **scope** of the topic, you have to examine **three** elements:

- **Feasibility**: can be conveniently done.

Example:

- does it employ useful research tools?
- does it propose some solutions?
- are solutions cost-efficient and easy to implement? etc.



- **Manageability**: do you have enough time and resources to undertake this project work?
- **Accessibility**: do you have access to relevant literature and data?



E - AVAILABLE LITERATURE ON THE TOPIC

What is literature?

- ❑ Information from previous studies that can be found in books, chapters, journal articles, newspapers, magazines, and websites, etc.
- ❑ This information should help you establish the theoretical basis of your research.



5. SUMMARY

A good research topic is one which:

- You are interested in,
- Meets the task requirements,
- Is focused, i.e., has specific scope,
- Is significant, i.e., there is a good reason to examine the topic,
- Is feasible, information is accessible and the project is manageable,
- Has available literature on the topic.



Thank You!

