



# 11th S2 RESEARCH PAPER

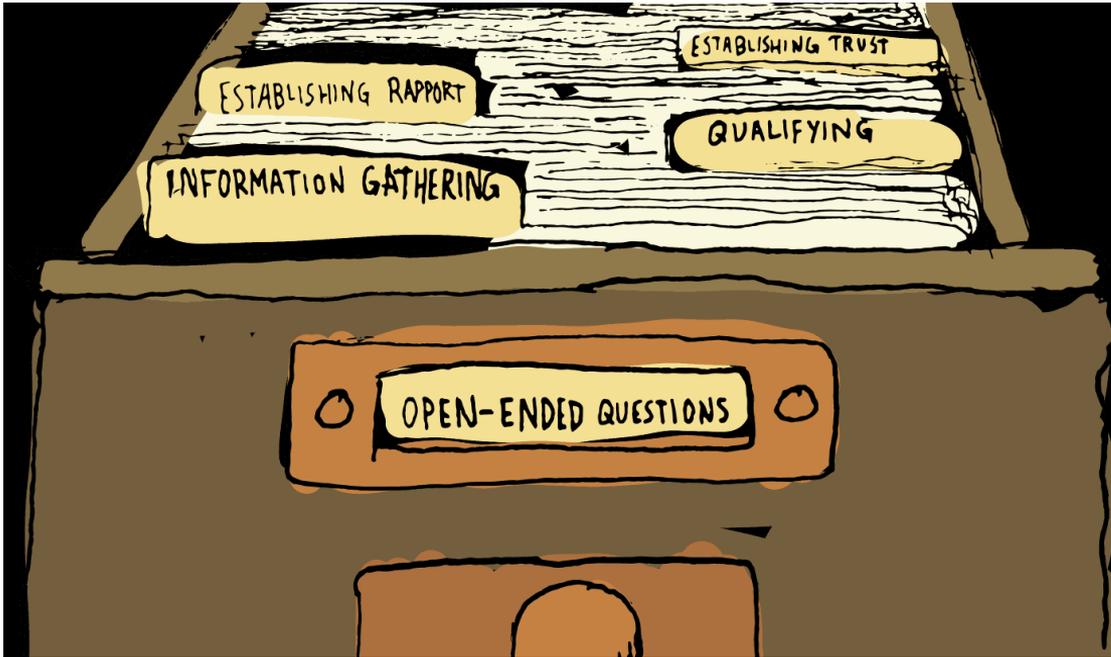
Humanities  
Dept. Rubric –  
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**RESEARCH QUESTION!**

Alright, so you've chosen your topic. Let's get down to business! Tackle those resources and form your research question!





# ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Begin with thinking  
“How?” and/or  
“Why?”

Consider the  
“So What?”

- Why does your topic matter to you? Why should it matter to others?



**EVALUATE YOUR  
QUESTION**

Specify

Clarify

Focus

Complexity (no  
simple “yes” or  
“no” answers  
will do)

WHAT IF? WHAT  
WHAT WHAT IF? //  
IF? WHAT IF?

**HYPOTHESIZE**

If you're making an argument, what will you say?

Why does your argument matter?

What kind of sources do you need?

How might others challenge you?



## SAMPLE: CLARITY

Unclear: Why are social networking sites harmful?

Clear: To what extent are online users experiencing or addressing privacy issues on social networking sites like Facebook and Instagram?



# FOCUS

**SAMPLE: FOCUSED**

Unfocused: What is the effect on the environment from global warming?

Focused: To what extent is glacial melting affecting penguins in Antarctica?



## SAMPLE: SIMPLE VS. COMPLEX

Too simple: How are doctors addressing diabetes in the U.S.? (also very vague!)

Appropriately complex: What are common traits of those suffering from diabetes in America, and how can these commonalities be used to aid the medical community in prevention of the disease?

# COMMAND TERMS

It is important to keep your question open-ended, and to do this, you can consider the following “command terms”:

- “To what extent...”
- “Consider...”
- “What is the significance...”
- “In what ways...”
- “Distinguish..”
- “Account for...”
- “Which...”