

**Developing Your Questions**

When you have chosen a broad topic, the next step is to do a little research into the topic so you know enough to create a research question. Your question can be modified and even replaced as you learn more about the topic. The most workable research questions usually start with “Why?”, “How?”, “Which”, “Should”, or “What if?”

Try working with these sample questions by filling in some appropriate words to explore for possible research.

Why did China \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_during the \_\_\_\_ time period?

Why did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Wall Street, law makers, scientists, doctors, the military or others)respond as they did during\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
How would you have solved \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
How does hindsight help us understand\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
How did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_influence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

How have efforts of reform impacted\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ?

How significant were the efforts of groups or organizations in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

How would you have advised the president to act during \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Which were the three best or three worst: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Which were the most important \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Which time period would you choose to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

What if \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Should Congress \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Should the Supreme Court \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

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