

NCHS Research Question Rubric

	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Developing	1 - Emerging
Specificity	Question can be answered by interpreting definitive and detailed information.	The research question can be answered in some detail.	Question can only be answered with generalities	The research question cannot be answered.
Uniqueness	Question builds on researcher's prior knowledge; answer requires synthesizing and applying new information on a topic of personal interest.	Question reviews researcher's prior knowledge and reflects a common question in the field; lacks original perspective from the researcher	Question may be relevant and potent but has been asked and answered by other scholars already, thus question leads to a report but not to research	Research question is generic.
Complexity	Question invites researcher to initiate and sustain exploration of relevant and sophisticated issues, problems, perspectives and resources.	Research question demonstrates some awareness of nuance associated with the focus.	Research question reflects a limited understanding of the nuance associated with the focus. and is mostly one-sided.	Research question is based on (a) generalization(s) or presumes one correct answer.
Scope	A range of sources is available for answering this question including, but not limited to, scholarly publications.	The information pool on this line of inquiry could lead to a successful research experience.	The information pool on this line of inquiry might impede the research experience.	The information pool on this line of inquiry will not allow for a successful research experience.
Example	What is the relationship between the United States' diplomatic history and its involvement in the war in Afghanistan (2003-)?	How did the United States diplomatic history lead to its involvement in the war in Afghanistan?	How was the United States responsible for the war in Afghanistan?	The war in Afghanistan

"Rubric for Developing a Research Question." Alexa Clark, University of Kentucky, 23 Jan. 2014. YouTube, youtu.be/4LS5npeiPrc.

Rothstein, Dan, et al. Make Just One Change: Teach Students to Ask Their Own Questions, Harvard Education Press, 2015.