

Psychology Fair
Student Handout 12: Choosing a Topic

Directions: Answer the following questions below to help you choose a topic, plan research questions, and find sources.

- Choose and narrow a topic that can be researched and will provide information to your reader.
- Answer the questions below to help you organize your thoughts and begin your research.

Answer Questions for Research

1. What do I already know about my topic?

Our topic concerns whether or not self-affirming statements can influence the success of people. We don't know the answer to this, which is what we are going to try to prove. What we do know is that the trivia questions asked will be for random topics that not any one person will know all the answers to.

2. What will my audience want to know about my topic?

We are testing for a correlation between positive self-confidence and more success in activities the participants are involved in. The participants will want to know that they will be asked to describe themselves with the best adjectives they can think of, and then take a short list of trivia questions are.

3. What about my topic interests me?

Finding out if something as easy as complimenting themselves makes people more likely to answer correctly to trivia questions.

4. What do I need to know about my topic?

I need to know whether there is a correlation between someone describing themselves in a positive way and having more success in what they do. Further, we need to determine why or why not there is a correlation between the two things.