

## GENERATING SECONDARY RESEARCH QUESTIONS- 20 TIME 2015

**Definition:** The process of thinking up and writing down a set of questions that you want to answer about the research topic you have selected.

**Justification:** Helps inform the information you will need to research, and also keeps you from getting lost or off-track while looking for information. These are the questions you will try to find answers to by conducting research.

**Timing:** After you have a research topic, and have generated keywords to develop an overview of the information on which you will become the expert.

**How:** You will be making two lists of questions: one for "factual" questions and one for "interpretive" questions. The answers to factual questions will give your reader the basic background information they need to understand your topic. The answers to interpretive questions show your creative thinking in your project.

**Asking factual questions:** Assume your audience knows nothing about your subject. Make an effort to tell them everything they need to know to understand what you will say in your project. You should start with the 5 W's:

*Example: For a project about President Abraham Lincoln's attitude and policies towards slavery, the audience will have to know; Who was Abraham Lincoln? Where and when was he born? What political party did he belong to? When was he elected president? What were the attitudes and laws about slavery during his lifetime? How did his actions affect slavery?*

**Asking interpretive questions:** These kinds of questions are the result of your own original thinking. They can be based on the preliminary research you have done on your chosen topic. There are several different categories of interpretive questions, and you should choose several types for your project.

A. **Hypothetical:** How would things be different today if something in the past had been different?

*Example: How would our lives be different today if the Confederate (southern) states had won the United States Civil War? What would have happened to the course of World War Two if the Atomic Bomb hadn't been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?*

B. **Prediction:** How will something look or be in the future, based on the way it is now?

*Example: What will happen to sea levels if global warming due to ozone layer depletion continues and the polar caps melt significantly? If the population of China continues to grow at the current rate for the next fifty years, how will that impact its role in world politics?*

C. **Solution:** What solutions can be offered to a problem that exists today?

*Example: How could global warming be stopped? What can be done to stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among teenagers worldwide?*

- D. **Comparison or Analogy:** Find the similarities and differences between your main subject and a similar subject, or with another subject in the same time period or place.

*Example: In what ways is the Civil War in the former Yugoslavia similar to (or different from) the United States Civil War? What is the difference in performance between a Porsche and a Lamborghini?*

- E. **Judgment:** Based on the information you find, what can you say as your informed opinion about the subject?

*Example: How does tobacco advertising affect teen cigarette smoking? What are the major causes of eating disorders among young women? How does teen parenthood affect the future lives of young women and men?*