

HPQ supervisor advice meeting 3: Project planning review

Aims of the meeting:

- For the student to develop their thinking about their research plan for their project.
- For the supervisor to interrogate the student's thinking about their proposed research plan.
- To guide the student on their next steps.

In the meeting students should:

- ★ Describe and justify the plans they have made so far for their research approach.
- ★ Talk you through their ideas for a project title and any background research they have completed so far.
- ★ Make notes on the advice that you give them.

The supervisor should:

- ★ Discuss research options including primary and secondary research.
- ★ Discuss sub questions that the proposed project title might lead to.
- ★ If the student is considering an interview discuss who they would interview, how they will get in touch with them and any safeguarding guidelines. For example having a parent present if they are meeting with someone that they do not know.
- ★ If the student is considering a questionnaire discuss what they would hope to find out from this questionnaire, who it would be aimed at, how many respondents they would aim for, how they would distribute the questionnaire and any questions that they are considering.
- ★ Discuss the secondary resources that the student has already identified and how they might identify further secondary resources. Points to consider Include: reliability; bias; the breadth of resources.

Useful advice to give the student at this stage:

- ★ Keep a log of all secondary resources that you look at. This will be used as the basis for a bibliography towards the end of the project.
- ★ Consider whether secondary resources have any bias. Students can use biased resources as long as they recognise this.
- ★ Encourage the students to look at a range of sources to help inform their research.
- ★ Questionnaires should have a pilot run before being distributed to potential respondents.
- ★ If considering an interview, aim to contact the person to be interviewed sooner rather than later; students usually under-anticipate how long it will take for people to come back to them on this!