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Perplexity -Brainstorming Research Questions

FYW students used [Perplexity AI's](#) copilot feature to develop a main research question and sub questions to help them explore more about their topics in their argumentative research essays.

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Brainstorming Research Question Assignment

Step One:

Review the main Argument Unit directions to ensure you are picking a topic that fits the assignment.

Step Two:

Sign up and create a free account with Perplexity using your go.olemiss.edu credentials

Step Three:

Enter topics you want to explore into Perplexity and toggle on the Copilot tool and pick and choose which ones you'd like to explore further. You can prompt the system for specific research questions or more general ones, depending on the scope of your research.

Step Four:

Create your Research Question proposal by selecting a main overall research question and several sub-questions from Perplexity. Then use your own writing to shape the proposal following the directions below. You can review the Research Question Student Example.

Requirements

- Must fit within the guidelines outlined in the Research essay directions (You absolutely want to review those guidelines before submitting this assignment!)
- Minimum of 100 words (standard font, spacing, and margins), double spaced
- Some background about what makes this a good research topic
- Must include a creative and descriptive title appropriate for your project.
- Must contain your main research question
- Include a number of sub-questions you might wish to explore related to your main research question

Evaluation: 10 points of your Research project.

Research Question Student Example

Title:

The Impact of Social Media on Young People's Mental Health

Main Research Question:

How does social media use impact mental health in young people?

Proposal:

This is an important question to explore as social media becomes increasingly prevalent in young people's lives. There are many potential factors to consider, such as the amount of time spent on social media, the types of content that is consumed, and whether young people have a supportive social network offline. This research question can be explored through surveys, interviews, and focus groups with young people. I plan to use a combination of scholarly sources and pop culture sources to help explore my topic in depth. I will need to balance any biased opinions I have about social media and mental health in order to keep an open mind about my topic. I ultimately hope to explore sources and arguments that will shape my opinion.

Subquestions:

- How does the amount of time spent on social media impact mental health in young people?
- How does the type of content consumed on social media impact mental health in young people?
- Do young people who have a supportive social network offline have better mental health?
- How does social media use impact mental health in young people with pre-existing mental health conditions?
- How does social media use impact mental health in young people from different socio-economic backgrounds?
- How does social media use impact mental health in young people from different cultural backgrounds?

Reflection Directions

Respond to the questions below about the Research Question assignment. Your post should be about 200-250 words long in the first-person, past tense.

- Have you ever used this tool or a tool like Perplexity in your writing or learning processes? If so, please explain your experience.
- What was your initial reaction to using Perplexity? How did it impact your writing/thinking Perplexity?
- How did using Perplexity differ from your normal writing/thinking process?
- How did Perplexity impact the formulation of your research question?
- Did Perplexity provide information you had already considered or were the ideas new to you?
- Part of the research process is to keep an open mind, how do you plan on keeping an open mind at this point in the research process and not being swayed by personal opinions or biases that you have?