

Sample Problem/Purpose Statement and Related Questions

Topic: **Ocean Pollution**

The following problem statement tells the reason for doing your research and the main goal of your Independent Investigation.

In what ways might I analyze and evaluate ocean pollution in order to create a solution to assist local ocean clean-up efforts?

Notice how finding answers to the following questions will be helpful as you work towards reaching that goal and completing a successful investigation.

1. What are the major contributors to ocean pollution?
 - a. **Plastics! *(I found that plastics were a MAJOR reason for our ocean pollution problem so I added new questions in pink)***
2. What technology is currently used to clean up ocean pollution?
3. In what ways do countries take responsibility for ocean pollution?
4. How does ocean pollution affect ocean life?
5. Where does ocean pollution end up?
6. What organizations take care of the oceans?
7. **Why are plastics such a large portion of ocean pollution?**
8. **What habits can we change to reduce the plastics making it into the ocean?**
9. **How does plastic affect the ocean?**

****Please note that the above questions are open-ended questions that require research. They are not easily answered with one or two words or a single source of information.**