## Developing your Research Question

- Use journalistic questions to brainstorm researchable questions.
- Search your question(s) in Google - what are some potential answers to your question? Use these “answers” to focus your topic and guide your research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Who</strong></th>
<th><strong>What</strong></th>
<th><strong>Where</strong></th>
<th><strong>When</strong></th>
<th><strong>Why</strong></th>
<th><strong>How</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>... benefits from this?</td>
<td>... are the strengths/weaknesses?</td>
<td>... would we see this in the real world?</td>
<td>... is this acceptable/unacceptable?</td>
<td>... is this a problem/challenge?</td>
<td>... is this similar to ______?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... is this harmful to?</td>
<td>... is another perspective?</td>
<td>... are there similar concepts/situations?</td>
<td>... would this benefit our society?</td>
<td>... is it relevant to me/others?</td>
<td>... does this disrupt things?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... makes decisions about this?</td>
<td>... is another alternative?</td>
<td>... is there the most need for this?</td>
<td>... would this cause a problem?</td>
<td>... is this the best/worst scenario?</td>
<td>... do we know the truth about this?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... is most directly affected?</td>
<td>... would be a counter-argument?</td>
<td>... in the world would this be a problem?</td>
<td>... is the best time to take action?</td>
<td>... are people influenced by this?</td>
<td>... will we know we've succeeded?</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>... have you also heard discuss this?</td>
<td>... is the best/worst case scenario?</td>
<td>... can we get more information?</td>
<td>... will we know we've succeeded?</td>
<td>... should people know about this?</td>
<td>... does this benefit us/others?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>... would be the best person to consult?</td>
<td>... is most/least important?</td>
<td>... has this played a part in our history?</td>
<td>... has it been this way for so long?</td>
<td>... does this harm us/others?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>... will be the key people in this?</td>
<td>... can we do to make a positive change?</td>
<td>... can we expect this to change?</td>
<td>... have we allowed this to happen?</td>
<td>... do we see this in the future?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>... deserves recognition for this?</td>
<td>... is getting in the way of our action?</td>
<td>... should we ask for help with this?</td>
<td>... is there a need for this today?</td>
<td>... can we change this for our good?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Do Your Sources Pass the CRAAP Test?

Evaluate your sources according to five criteria.

**Currency** - the timeliness of the information
- When was the information published or last updated?
- Have newer articles been published on your topic?
- Is your topic in an area that changes rapidly, like technology, health, science or popular culture?

**Relevance** - the importance of the information for your needs
- Does the information help answer your research question?
- Does the information meet the requirements of your assignment?
- Is the information too technical? Too simplified?
- Does the source add something new to your knowledge of your topic?

**Accuracy** - the reliability and correctness of the information
- Are there statements you know to be false?
- Was the information reviewed by editors or subject experts before it was published?
- What citations or references support the author’s claims?
- What do other people say about the topic?

**Authority** - the source of the information
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor of the source?
- What are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?

**Purpose** - the reason the information exists
- Is the purpose of the source to sell, persuade, entertain or inform?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?
- Are alternative points of view presented?
- Does the author use strong or emotional language?

The CRAAP Test isn’t a checklist - instead you should be able to defend your source against each of these criteria.

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