

## Worksheet 1: Constructing research questions

Research questions are the guarantee of the success of your research project. Unlike the topic, which can be quite general, a research question defines the specific scope of your project. In other words, a research question tells a reader what you were trying to find out when conducting research. Use the template below to formulate research questions step-by-step.

Define the topic of your project and describe it in one or two sentences (e.g. air pollution in a city).

If you are unable to describe the topic of your research yet, first try to write down some keywords related to the topic that interests you (e.g. sense of security, a housing estate in Warsaw, a nearby power station, air pollution, etc.). Alternatively, make a list of publications that inspire you and can help define your research problem.

Define a research gap, and explain why it is important to study this topic. Answer the following questions: What is unknown or unsolved about the issue you are considering? Why should you try to fill this gap?

Write down a research question. If necessary, create sub-questions.

Make sure to comment on the following:

a) the question relates to the research gap identified earlier:

b) problem is researchable:

c) question is focused and specific:

