

Change One Variable™

Goal: To pinpoint the underlying research problem you are trying to solve

Review: pp. 125-133 of *Where Research Begins*

Format: Individual or Partner

What You Need to Begin: A draft research question

1. Write out Your Research Question in its Current Form*:

* Make sure to include *all of the variables* relevant to your envisioned study (time, place, agent/subject, object, hypothesis, etc.). Refer to pages 125-126 of *Where Research Begins*.

2. Isolate the key "Variables" in the question above.

Time:

Place:

Agent/Subject:

Object:

Other Variable #1:

Other Variable #2:

3. Choose 1 of these variables, and *change* it.

For example, you could change the "time" variable of your question, keeping all others the same. Or you could change the "place" variable. The key is to change only 1 at a time.

After you change the variable, *read your reformulated research question out loud.*

Do you like it more than you did before? Less? No difference? Write that down.

Now the most important part: *Why?* If you like the new formulation less, *why?* If you like it the same, or even more, *why, do you suspect?* Write down some notes.

4. Repeat this procedure *at least 5 more times, using the grid below.**

* Note: When you repeat, make sure to change at least 2 *other* types of variable. (Don't, for example, just change the "place" variable three more times.)

5. Rewrite Your Research Question, incorporating new insights or variables.

Old Variable	Changed to	Effect			Why?
		<i>Worse</i>	<i>Same</i>	<i>Better</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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