

How to improve a Research Question

A good research question needs to be clear, focused, concise, complex, and arguable.

Sample Research Question:

Are single-use plastics bad for the environment?

*This is a good start,
but let's make it
better*

1 Make your question more specific.

Add demographic or geographic details to help specify your question.



Are single-use plastics **in coastal regions** bad for the **marine** environment?

2 Narrow your question to something arguable.

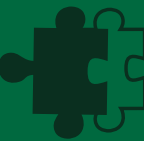
Add details on how to prove something with your research.



Does banning single-use plastics in coastal regions **affect** marine environment?

3 Expand the complexity of your question.

Add details that make your question answerable beyond a yes, no, or with something too simple.



What impact does banning single-use plastics in coastal regions have on the marine environment?



This final research question will be easier to research than the initial question. It also address a current issue.

