

Collecting information about an assigned topic is usually pretty simple. However, a simple collection of facts will not produce a good research paper. In order to be useful, research must be organized around a research question. If you do not have a research question, then the information you find will have no purpose or direction.

Questions that ask WHO, WHERE, or WHEN about specific facts, like the questions below, do not usually make good research questions.

These questions can be answered with simple facts: names, places and dates. Although facts can be