

Examples of Research Questions
NS 3041
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Guidelines

1. A research question must be specific. Avoid general statements of interest.
2. A research question is the thesis statement of your paper.
3. A research question should be a positive economic statement, that is, it should be testable and have a definitive answer. Avoid normative statements which are value judgments and cannot be tested.
4. If you have questions on what constitutes a research question, ask.

Examples of Research Questions

1. How has the transition from command economy to market economy affected personal income and income inequality in China over the past decade?
2. What are the economic issues with respect to the access to water in the Middle East and how might these issues affect the possibility for a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian state?
3. Has corruption influenced the allocation of military resources in the Russian Federation?
4. Did the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund contribute to the political and economic instability in Indonesia?
5. Why is public investment relatively low in Sub-Saharan Africa relative to developing countries in Latin America? A Survey of the Evidence.
6. What is the potential impact of NATO admission on the economy of Lithuania? A Survey of the Analyses to Date.

Some Examples of What to Avoid

1. Has the transition to market created problems in Russia? (Too broad)
2. Is corruption bad for economic development (Too broad, how do you test "bad")
3. How does Indian defense policy affect Indian economic policy (Too broad)
4. How does the procurement of T-72 tanks in Indian affect defense spending in Pakistan? (Interesting, but doubtful whether it could be answered in this class).
5. Will the European Currency Unit promote economic growth in the European Community? (Too broad, and has been addressed by numerous scholars)