

HW3: How to come up with a research question

Assigned: January 26, 2011

Due: February 2, 2011

The goal of this assignment is to help you develop and allow you to demonstrate deeper understanding of course concepts. In working on this assignment, please feel free to consult your classmates, or anyone else for that matter. But make sure to write up your answers independently. Please double-space all work and use a font size no smaller than 12. The homework is due at the beginning of class on the due date.

One of the hardest things to do in science is to come up with an important, testable research question. In this assignment, you'll pick one of the readings from the class and analyze the research question it asks, how it got there, and how it generated a hypothesis from this question.

Pick one of the following readings: R7, R8, or R10 (either Kamide et al. (2003) or McRae et al, (2006)), and answer the following questions about it, clearly and concisely.

1. What is the main research question? (There may be several, pick the one that the paper focuses on most.)
2. Why is this research question important? (That is, why does the paper argue we should care about the answer?)
3. According to the paper, why do we not already know the answer to this question? (Is there a gap in the research that has been done? Is previous work faulty?)
4. What is the hypothesis that the experiment in the article tests? (This should address the research question you've identified.)
5. Explain how the authors come to this hypothesis.

Note that most of these articles describe several experiments. You don't need to describe all the experiments for articles R8 or R10 if you pick those readings.