

The Goldilock's Question!

A “Just Right” research question is what you want to advise your students to find. This means a question that will lead to analysis – not just summary or personal opinion and a question that is not too broad or too narrow.

Let’s imagine “Education” is one part of the Diploma Programme areas of study/hexagon. A student has decided to write an Extended Essay in the area of Education. Look at these samples and identify if you think the research question is Too Narrow, Too Broad or Just Right!

1. Can the theory of Multiple Intelligences be used to improve multiple-choice assessments in advanced Civics and Economics classes?
2. To what extent is pedagogical content knowledge important for successful World History teachers?
3. How does technology integration affect professional development?
4. How is reading motivation in elementary and middle school students affected by the use of multiple intelligences?
5. How has Gardener’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences affected education?
6. To what extent does daily use of an LCD projector affect the success of a social studies lesson?
7. What impact does technology integration have on professional development of teachers?
8. What methods can be used to improve teaching?
9. How can field trip experiences be used to enhance the learning process for students?
10. How can we use technology to achieve better results in education?
11. What kinds of teaching activities lead to more student learning/achievement?
12. Does the daily, educational use of technology increase the effective educational patterns of interaction between teachers and learners?

Now apply your knowledge of the “Goldilock’s Research Question” to your own field. Brainstorm a topic or two students could explore/analyze in your area. Then write a more specific, analytical, “just right” research question. Use samples provided to get your brain going -- all samples are from the 2013 web-based Extended Essay Guide which can be accessed on the OCC (<http://bit.ly/occeeguide>)

Student Interest	
Area of Study	
Title or Topic	
Research Question	
Approach	