

DEVELOP YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION

Why?

- A research question centers and directs your research.
- A research question ensures focus in your paper or project.

How?

- Start with a broad topic.
- Choose one aspect of that broad topic that interests you.
- Frame it as an arguable question.

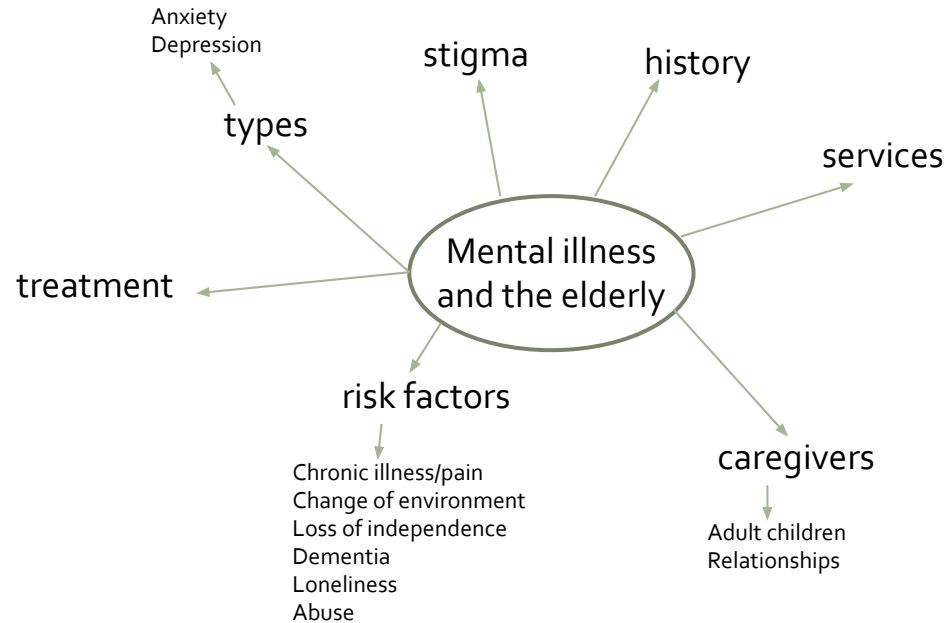
Example

Broad topic: mental illness and the elderly

Brainstorm

1. Conduct a simple Google search on your topic
 - a. Gather vocabulary around the topic
 - b. Discover different aspects of your broad topic
 - i. What research has already been done?
 - ii. Are there any gaps in the research?
 - iii. How can you look at the topic in a way that is novel?
2. Make a concept map

Concept Map



To Review:

Now that you have your concept map...

- Choose one aspect that interests you.
- Frame it as an arguable question.

Ask the Question

- Try to frame your research question as how, what, or why?
- Avoid questions that are too broad or too narrow.
- Use specifics.

Examples

What effect does a change of environment have on older adults?

Better: How does moving into a nursing home affect an older adult's mental health?

Examples

Has the care of mentally ill elderly persons changed over time?

Better: How has the care of mentally ill elderly persons changed since the 18th century?

Examples

How is depression treated in the elderly?

Better: What community interventions could be implemented to help alleviate depression in the elderly?