

GUIDELINES

~ON HOW TO USE THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS~

PURPOSE

The purpose of these questions is to spark your interest in the topic, to trigger your curiosity, to jump-start your research, to help you find an angle.

The suggested sources are by no means the only sources to consult; the list can give you some idea on who has published information on the subject.

SOURCES

1

Pick the questions you want to research. Read all the questions to see which ones spark your interest. Which questions do *you* want to find answers to? Start researching those and see where your research takes you. You certainly don't have to research all the questions.

2

Answer one question at a time. In grouped questions, find a satisfactory answer to one question before moving on to the next question. Each question is a necessary step to greater knowledge and clarity. Aim to achieve clarity on one specific question before you research another.

3

Find an angle. During your research, look for a specific aspect of the overall topic to focus on. Aim your research and analysis at a specific issue. Define the scope—the parameters—of the topic in order to channel and direct both your research process and your own thoughts.

4

Keep digging. As you are reading and thinking, write down questions that come to mind. Keep researching until your questions are exhausted and you have sufficient information and clarity on the topic. Follow a line of questioning that is productive.

5

Know when to start writing. Start writing when you have something to say and enough material to explain, illustrate, support what you have to say. When you have achieved enough clarity and understanding on a topic and have enough ideas to develop into paragraphs, start writing the first draft.

