

4.2 Asking and Evaluating Relevant and Focus Research Questions

For Teachers:

Using the materials and previous discussions as a starting point, teachers will lead students in developing inquiry skills. Students have already developed some connections and thematic statements synthesizing various sources within the sample materials but will now move from topics to research questions. Using the “Q-matrix”¹ as a resource, students will develop preliminary questions as practice. Teachers will then lead students through resources focusing on question formulation and evaluation, with discussion of scope and delimitation to narrow or broaden the focus. Teachers may provide students with sample questions to assess so they can practice applying skills for evaluating questions before turning to their own questions formulated using the Q-matrix. Students will also receive materials regarding research approaches—namely, the types of lenses to help focus the preliminary research process and the different perspectives to seek.

¹ Again, thanks must be extended to the Pacific Partnership for Critical Thinking and colleagues at the University of Queensland for the development of this resource.