

# Book Reading Summary: Where Research Begins: choosing a research topic that matters to you (and the world)

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# 1 Summary

## 1.1 Research Phases: Inside-Out Self-Centered Approach

## 1.2 To-Do List

### 1.2.1 Brainstorming Questions

- Exercise 1.1 (Search Yourself)
- Exercise 1.2 (Let Boredom Be Your Guide)
- Exercise 1.3 (Go Small or Go Home)

### 1.2.2 From Questions to Problems

- Exercise 1.4 (Run a Diagnostic Test on Your Questions)
- Exercise 1.5 (Use Primary Sources to Educate Your Questions)
- Exercise 1.6 (Make Your Assumptions Visible)
- Exercise 1.7 (Identify the Problem That Connects Your Questions)

### 1.2.3 From Problems to Research Projects

- Exercise 1.8 (Treat Your Primary Source Like a Cereal Box)
- Exercise 1.9 (Envision Your Primary Sources)
- Exercise 1.10 (Connect the Dots Using Your Sources)
- Exercise 1.11 (Decision Matrix)
- Exercise 1.12 (Prepare a Formal Research Proposal)

### 1.2.4 Identifying Your Problem Collective

- Exercise 1.13 (Change One Variable)
- Exercise 1.14 (Before and After)
- Exercise 1.15 (Map Out Your Collective (Secondary Source Search))

### 1.2.5 Rewriting for Your Collective

- Exercise 1.16 (Find and Replace All “Insider Language”)

### 1.2.6 Organizing Your Field into Problem Collectives

- Exercise 1.17 (Start Your Own “What’s Your Problem?” Bookstore)
- Exercise 1.18 (Change Their Variables)

### 1.2.7 Rewriting for Your Field

- Exercise 1.19 (Rewrite for Your Field)

### 1.2.8 Formal Drafting and Revision

- Exercise 1.20 (Create “Draft 0”)
- Exercise 1.21 (Move from 0 to 1)

### 1.2.9 What is Next?

- Exercise 1.22 (Find a New Problem and Start a New Project)
- Exercise 1.23 (Help Someone Else)

## 1.3 Research Community and Network

### 1.3.1 Building Research Network

- Exercise 1.24 (Start Building Your Research Network)

### 1.3.2 Identifying Primary Sources

- Exercise 1.25 (Get Leads on Primary Sources)

### 1.3.3 Decision Consulting and Proposal Sharing

- Exercise 1.26 (Is Your Decision Matrix Complete?)
- Exercise 1.27 (Share Your Proposal with a Trusted Mentor (Who Understands How Preliminary

### 1.3.4 Evaluation of Proposal from Outsider

- Exercise 1.28 (Does the Lay Version of My Proposal Make Sense?)

### 1.3.5 Finding a Sounding Board in Your Field

- Exercise 1.29 (Find a Sounding Board in Your Field)

### 1.3.6 Being Your Own Sounding Board

- Exercise 1.30 (Talk to Yourself)

## **2 Introduction**

### **2.1 Self-Centered Research**

### **2.2 Introversion, First. Extroversion Second**

## **3 Become a Self-Centered Researcher**

### **3.1 Questions**

### **3.2 What's Your Problem?**

### **3.3 Designing a Project that Works**

## **4 Get Over Yourself**

### **4.1 How to Find Your Problem Collective**

### **4.2 How to Navigate Your Field**

### **4.3 How to Begin**

## **5 What's Next in Your Research Journey?**