

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR ARTISTS

MR. WIGGERS

WHAT?

Clear
Focused
Concise
Complex

Flexible; as
work is made,
questions
may shift!

Allows for fo-
cused explo-
ration of a
given topic.

HOW?

Engage

Start broadly, and then narrow as you go through the creative process. This is something that can be easily explored through mind-mapping, or perhaps mood boards. Research is of course, essential.

Ask

Use “How” or “Why” or “Can” to create questions. For example “Can experimental art improve human-plant relations?” or “How does road-building impact how we view the land?” or “Why is there a difference between my self-identity and others perceived identity?”

Evaluate

As your work takes form, continually evaluate your research question. Does it still reflect the work that you’re doing? Has the work evolved in a new direction? Revise your question! Don’t try to force your work into the confines of your initial question.

Interesting

While general guidelines are given for our projects, and the media is fixed, I am open to shifts in concept!

Clear

Avoid vagueness, chase specifics. Do not: Why are social networking sites harmful? Do: How are online users experiencing criminal harassment (bullying) on sites such as Facebook or Twitter?

Focused

Narrow down your research to a manageable level for your specific body of work. Not focused: How did post-impressionist painters experience identity? Focused: How did Van Gogh use the elements of art to grapple with identity in his self-portraits?

Complex

Questions should not be simple to answer. Your work may leave you with more questions than you answered!