

Framing Questions to Research

What is it? Framing questions to research means identifying specific information you would like to know about a topic. When you frame a question, you focus your search for answers.

How to do it. As you read, think about what information is not stated. What questions do you have? Write them down. Then choose one question to start your research. Write down any new questions that come to mind as you learn more. You may need to revise your original question. If your question seems too broad, reframe it to focus your research.

Too broad: *What was the role of city planning in 20th-century America?*

More focused: *How did city planning help San Francisco recover after the earthquake of 1906?*

Try it. Read the following passage.

Labor leader Mary Harris Jones, commonly known as Mother Jones, went to Pennsylvania in 1903. She was going to support a strike by 75,000 textile workers. To her surprise, she found that about 10,000 of the workers were children. Jones led a “March of the Mill Children” from Pennsylvania to Oyster Bay, New York. She petitioned President Theodore Roosevelt to support child labor laws.

Mother Jones’s march helped people across the country become aware of child labor. Reformers demanded an end to child labor. By 1909, 43 states had passed laws that outlawed the hiring of children.

One question on the topic of child labor is suggested below. Frame three more questions for research on this topic. Which would be a good question to start researching?

