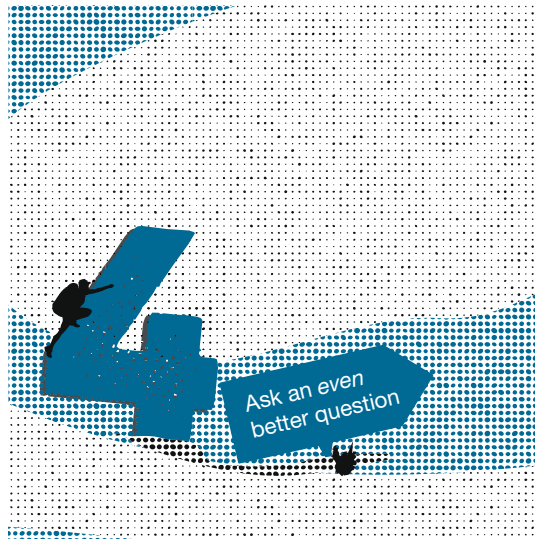


4

DECIDE ON YOUR QUESTION - AGAIN



Chapter Table of Contents

Seeing the wood for the trees

From storyboard to storyline

Your final question

Theory

This chapter will help you figure out how to . . .

- Consider how your prima facie question has changed
 - React if other people have already done what you were planning to do
 - Realise if the question is more complicated than you had thought
 - Determine if you will be able to get all of the information you need
- Refine your original questions and ideas, making sure that the new, refined questions are not too broad, not too difficult, in the context of your literature search
- Move from your storyboard to a more definite storyline to form the clear plan for your research
- Use the process of refining your question to state a final research question
- Think about how you will develop theory

For extra help, check out these other resources:

Becker, H.S. (2008) *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish your Thesis, Book, or Article* (2nd edn).

Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Quite advanced, but can be read with pleasure, as is the case with all of Becker's writing.

Capital Community College Foundation produces a 'Guide to Grammar and Writing', which contains a useful page at <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/composition/thesis.htm#>. This discusses what the authors call the 'thesis statement', which is an alternative to the research question.

Cooper, H. and Schoolbred, M. (2016) *Where's Your Argument? How to Present Your Academic Argument in Writing*. London: Palgrave Macmillan Education. Good on developing an argument from evidence.

Thomas, G. (2007) *Education and Theory: Strangers in Paradigms*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Detailed, critical discussion on the meaning of theory and how work can progress without recourse to 'formal' theory. I didn't really write this for beginners, though, so you may find it hard going if you don't have some sort of background in the area.

CHAPTER 4 CHECKLIST

You may find it helpful to copy this table and write down the answers to the questions. Have you ...

	Notes	
1 ... drawn a storyboard that summarises the main themes and issues you found in your literature review?	If not, draw one.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 ... tracked a central theme which you will follow for your project?	What is it?	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 ... written your revised, final question?		<input type="checkbox"/>
4 ... considered how you will use and develop theory in your work?		<input type="checkbox"/>