



Three-Step-Exercise

The three-step-exercise is not useful for generating new ideas. Instead, the method helps you formulate a precise research question and a working hypothesis from vague ideas. To do this, answer the following questions in the given order.

Part 1

For questions 1 to 3, complete the respective sentence parts in such a way that in the end, your three answers form a long, coherent sentence.

- 1) State your topic. (What am I writing about?).

I am examining/working on/writing about...

- 2) Work your way into your research question (What do I want to know?).

...because I want to understand/find out/get behind the idea...

- 3) Define your objective (Why do I want to know that?).

...to understand/to determine/to test...

(cf. Writing Center of Europa-Universität Viadrina)

Part 2

1) Reformulate what you wrote for 3) by finishing the following sentence:
The objective of the paper is...

2) Reformulate what you wrote for 2) as a question.
My research question:

3) Formulate a working hypothesis that answers the question above.
Working hypothesis:

(cf. *ibid.*)

Source: Writing Center of Europa-Universität Viadrina. *Dreischritt*. 2016.

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