

How to write an Inquiry Style Question:



What is an inquiry question?

- A questions that you can answer through doing your own research

While there are many different types of questions you can ask on any topic NOT all questions are good inquiry questions.

Level 1 Question:

- *Easy to answer with a quick Google Search*
- *These questions start with the words “who?”, “where?” and “when?”*
- *Only need a few words to answer them*

Example: Who was the first mayor of Hamilton?

Example: _____

We do **NOT** use these types of questions for an inquiry

Level 2 Questions:

- *Easy to answer with a quick Google search*
- *These questions start with “how?”, “what?” and “why?”*
- *Require more words to answer*

Example: How did people cook their food before they had electric ovens?

Example: _____

We **CAN** use these types of questions in an inquiry

There is another type of questions called a Level 3 Questions:

- *Are harder to find the answer to and need you to look at a number of sources to find your answer.*
- *Ask you to come to your own understandings because you will not find the exact answer written straight out for you through your research.*
- *They might start with “what evidence....?”, “what can we infer?” and “if...then....”*

While we can **ALWAYS** use level 3 questions in an inquiry they can be hard to come up with. You may want to wait to use these types of questions until you are more comfortable with level 2 questions.

Remember to always be thinking about the answer to your question throughout your research. This will help you stay focused on your topic!

Some other great words to include in an inquiry question are:

- How do they compare?
- How are they similar?
- How are they different?
- How have things changed over time?
- How have they stayed the same?
- What impact does this have on...?