

Political Science 461 – Senior Thesis in Political Science
ASSIGNMENT: Research Question

Due Friday, October 6, 5:00PM by e-mail (mag@cpp.edu)

No late assignments will be accepted.

A **research question** is an academic puzzle. Academic research attempts to answer questions about the world in a systematic and detailed manner. Before embarking on a research project, every scholar must pose a question to be answered. Research questions are not only fascinating puzzles about the world, but good questions can be answered using the conventions of the scholarly field you're working in.

Parameters:

- 1-2 paragraphs suggested
- One page maximum
- Single-spaced or double-spaced
- 12-point, Times New Roman font
- File must be in .doc or .docx format

This assignment intends for you to develop your research question as briefly and concisely as possible.

For this assignment, address the following:

1. From your earlier ideas on your statement of interest, choose one topic. Begin your paper by describing this topic in no more than one or two sentences.
2. Choose ONE research question to address in your thesis. What is this question? **Bold this question in your paper.**
3. Can you identify the main concepts or ideas in your question? What are these concepts? How do these concepts relate to each other? (Most projects will have two concepts.)
4. At the end of the assignment, provide a one or two sentence statement that summarizes the answer or expectations to your research question. This is an early draft of your argument.