

# Starting the Research Process

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# Goals

- Share a workshop for first and second-year students on writing research questions
- Demonstrate how Credo can be used to help students
  - Write research questions
  - Revise research questions



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# Research Questions

- Clarity: Is the research question obvious and stated succinctly?
- Specificity: Is the research question focused and answerable?
- Context / Perspective: Is the research question from the perspective of one discipline or from the context of group?
- Insight: Does the research question reveal creative thinking and the need for further research?
- Personal interest

The screenshot shows the SUNY Empire State College website. The header includes the college logo and navigation links like 'Request Information' and 'Attend info Session'. A secondary navigation bar contains 'About Us', 'Degrees & Programs', 'Admissions & Aid', 'Student Affairs', and 'Partnership Progr'. Below this is an orange banner for the 'Online Writing Center' with a breadcrumb trail: 'Exercise Room > Is the Research Question Too Broad or Too Narrow?'. The main content area is titled 'Exercise 2: Is the Question Too Broad or Too Narrow?' and contains the following text:

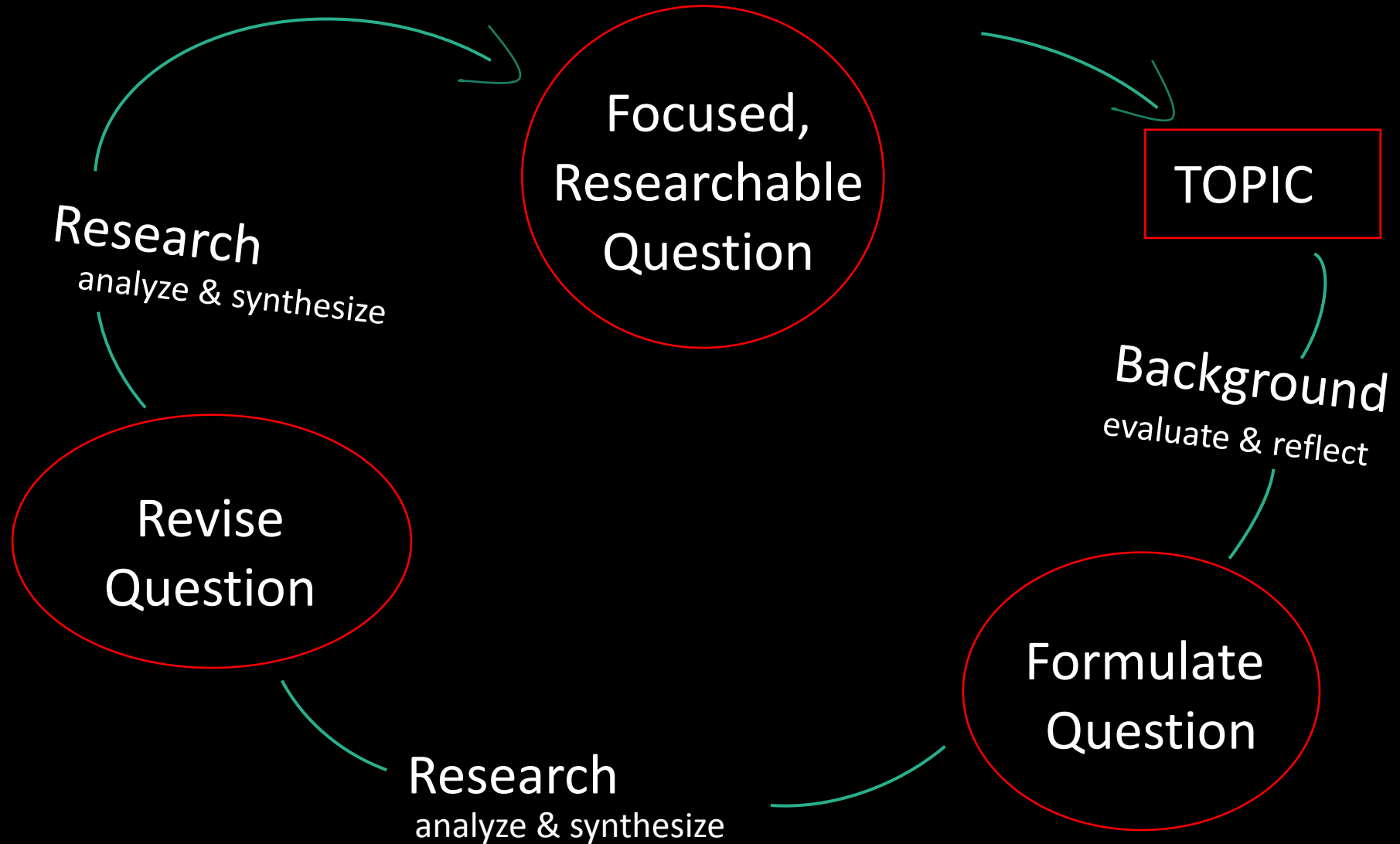
The exercises below are designed to improve your ability to select a good research question.

*For each exercise choose what you think is the best research question out of the three (neither too broad nor too narrow).*

**Exercise 2A**

|   |
|---|
| + Question A: What marketing strategies does the Coca-Cola company currently apply? |
| + Question B: What is the Coca-Cola company's future marketing plan?                |
| + Question C: What marketing strategies has the Coca-Cola company used in the past? |

# Evolution of a Research Question



# Background Research Using Credo Reference



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

agriculture

Browse ▾



English ▾

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## Topic Page: Organic farming

+ Definition



### MIND MAP



Image from: [Rodale Institute's ongoing Farming...](#) in *Encyclopedia of Agriculture and Food Systems*

Summary Article: [organic farming](#)  
from *The Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia with Atlas and Weather Guide*

Farming without the use of synthetic fertilizers (such as [nitrates](#) and phosphates) or [pesticides](#) (herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides) or other agrochemicals (such as hormones, growth stimulants, or fruit regulators). The use of any form of genetically modified crops, animals, or ingredients is also banned. Organic farming uses techniques commonly used in agriculture before the development of synthetic chemicals, drugs, and genetic modification, including frequent crop rotations with periods of fallow; natural fertilizers; free-range farm animals; smaller herd sizes; encouraging beneficial insect population growth; and increasing the

diversity of crop species.

In place of artificial fertilizers, compost, manure, seaweed, or other substances derived from living things are used (hence the name 'organic'). Growing a crop of a nitrogen-fixing plant such as lucerne, then ploughing it back into the soil, also fertilizes the ground. Some organic farmers use naturally-occurring chemicals such as nicotine or pyrethrum to kill pests, but control by non-chemical methods is preferred. These methods include removal by hand, intercropping (planting with companion plants which...

[Continue...](#)



### RELATED TOPIC PAGES

#### Organic food

There is no one simple definition of organic foods. In the United States, 1 of 90 countries with organic food standards, regulations

# Write Research Question



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- Students work in pairs or groups of 3
- Write question on worksheet
- Write question on whiteboard

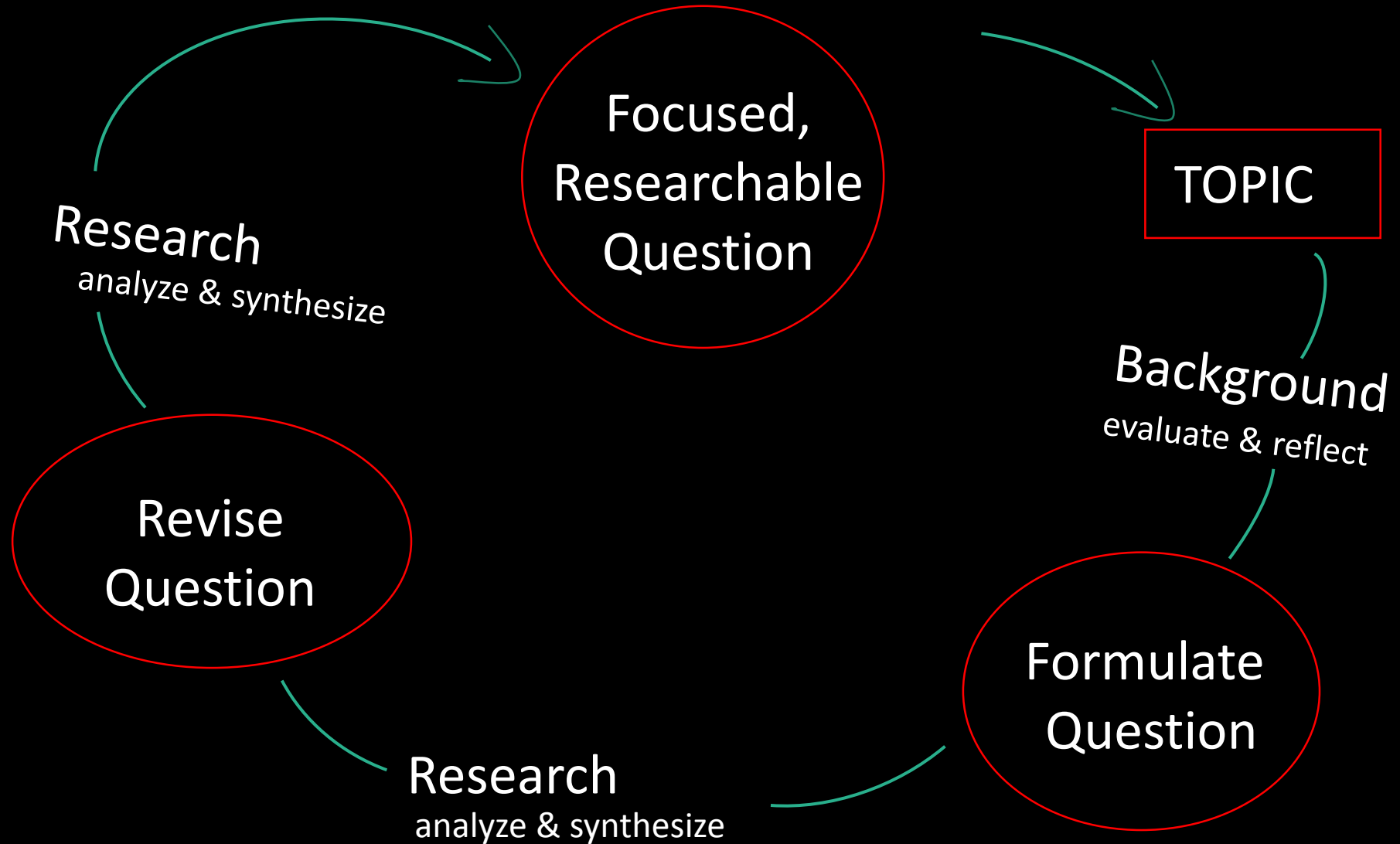
Students give feedback to group beside them



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Review the criteria we developed together. Provide the team who wrote the question with one thing they did well and one suggestion for improvement using the criteria

# Evolution of a Research Question





# Find Sources with Credo Reference

## organic farming

**The Encyclopedia of Ecology and Environmental Management, Blackwell Science**

Agriculture that avoids, as far as possible, chemical support through Fertilizers and biocides . See also farming practices,...

## Organic Farming

**The Atlas of Food**

INCREASE IN ORGANIC LIVESTOCK IN THE USA 2003–05 Beef cattle THE GLOBAL TREND towards sustainable practices in agriculture has been termed “the

## Organic Agricultural Production: Plants

**Encyclopedia of Agriculture and Food Systems**

Abstract Organic farming relies on the integration of a diversity of farm components, the cycling of nutrients and other resources, and stewardship

[See more from Credo](#)

## Images



Example of winter wheat intercropped...



The four components of agricultural...



Plots in the Rodale Institute's Farming...

# Revise Question

- Students write revised question near prior question.
- Explain revisions to the class



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# Research Process



## Guide to Library Research

<http://go.osu.edu/libraryresearch>

# Thank you for your attention

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