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scope of one paper. Without specifying these terms, the question lacks the necessary precision for focused research. To fix this, the author should attempt to narrow their topic.

Example Clear Research Question: How does prolonged exposure to air pollution in urban areas impact the respiratory health of adults aged 50 and above over a five-year period?

Additionally, a research question should be concise.

Example Wordy Research Question: What are the various factors (parental involvement, teacher-student relationships, school budget) that contribute to student performance in academic settings, and how do they interact with each other in shaping the overall academic success or failure of students in different educational institutions across diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural contexts?

This research question is not concise for two main reasons. The first is that the question is overly complex, attempting to address multiple factors in student performance, including socioeconomic backgrounds, cultural contexts, and educational institutions. An overly complex research question will be a challenge, resulting in a paper that is too broad to execute. The second reason is that this question contains multiple sub-questions; a concise research question should ideally contain *one* central issue to maintain clarity. To fix this, the author may want to focus on one aspect of their research question instead of including all the details.

Example Concise Research Question: How does parental involvement impact the academic performance of high school students in urban public schools?

the author to explore the concept. Overall, creating an open-ended question invites exploration and does not limit the research to a binary outcome. research questions and instead prioritize questions that more discussion.

Below, you will see a list of research topics. Practice making research questions by re-forming the topic into a clear, concise, and open-ended question narrow enough to focus but broad enough to research.

- 1. Artificial intelligence in high school education
- 2. Mental health and social media usage
- 3. Workplace diversity and company performance

Review the following research questions that need some work. Identify the problem (lack of clarity, concision, or open-endedness) and provide feedback on improving them.

4.

patronage exploited Black artists in the Harlem Renaissance?

- 5. Topic: Sleep deprivation and cognitive function
 Working Research Question: How does sleep deprivation affect cognitive function?
- 6. Topic: Climate change and the Global South

Working Research Question: What are the multifaceted effects of climate change on extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and warming temperatures on the relatively poorer countries of the world in the Global South; which countries in the world generate the most CO2 and how is that reflective on global inequality, and can we identify economically viable and sustainable preventative measures these countries can potentially implement to mitigate the adverse effects of climate-induced weather?

Answer Key for Activity 1

The answers below are examples of what the research questions could look like, but they are not the only ways that you could transform these topics into questions. Answers will vary.

- 1. In what ways can artificial intelligence tools benefit the classroom through student engagement and learning outcomes in high school education?
- 2. What is the relationship between different social media apps (Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat) usage and the mental well-being of adolescents?
- 3. How does employee diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity, and age contribute to performance in a team-based corporate setting?

Answer Key for Activity 2

4. Needs to be open-

Renaissance in his poetry thematically illustrate white exploitation of Black culture?

Reformat the question to allow for there to be room for discussion, rather than a simple yes or no answer.

5. Needs to be clearer: What is the relationship between sleep duration and quality of academic performance in college students?

Find a way to fill the gap; it is already known that sleep deprivation affects cognitive performance, but what narrow, specific sub-topic can you focus on?

6. Needs to be more concise: How are rising global temperatures impacting the extreme weather events in the Global South, and what affordable prevention measures could these countries implement?

Cut down to focus your paper and research.

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