

# Asking a Researchable Question

Political Science

Turning a political interest into something that can be investigated.

*What makes a question researchable.*

## Good questions

Specify the outcome to be explained

Identify a comparison or variation

Could in principle be answered no

Have available evidence

Contribute something not already established

## Poor questions

Is democracy good?

Why is politics broken?

Questions with a built-in answer

Questions with no observable implication

Educational reference. Start from variation: what differs between cases, periods or groups is what a study can explain.