**Developing a Big Question for your research**

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| **Small Questions** |
| * have only one answer |
| * may have a yes or no answer |
| * the answers are easily found. |
| **Big Questions** |
| * are “open-ended” questions and cannot be answered with a yes or a no or a small phrase. |
| * require multiple resources to be answered. |
| * need to be interesting to you. |
| * may begin with “How”, “Why”, “Explain”, “To what extent”, “Account for”. |
| * Not obvious or easily answered |
| * Leads to multiple perspectives |
| * Keeps you thinking/thought provoking |
| * Could lead to controversy/debate |

**You are at the stage of your research where you need to develop your inquiry questions. There are TWO you need for this task. The first is the one you ask yourself about your issue, and the second is the one that all students doing this task will answer: What can I, as a citizen of Australia, do about this issue?**

**Today you are going to produce your first question relating to your issue. Here’s how you do it: Work alone.**

**RULES FOR PRODUCING QUESTIONS**

* **Write down as many questions as you can. Do not stop to judge or answer the questions. Write them as they come to mind, HERE:**

**CLOSED or OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS**

* **Closed-ended questions: They can be answered with YES or NO or with ONE WORD.**  
  *Example:* Is this going to be on the exam?
* **Open-ended questions: They require an explanation and cannot be answered with YES or NO or ONE WORD.**

*Example:* What will be on the exam?

* **Find closed-ended questions.   
  Mark them with a C.**
* **The other questions must be open-ended.   
  Mark them with an O.**

**PRIORITIZE QUESTIONS**

**Write down the three best questions that relate to your issue. Then circle the one you prefer. Now you have your inquiry question!**

1.

2.

3.