Writing a Good Research Question
I need a good research question!
What is my topic?

Begin by brainstorming things that you’re interested in learning more about related to the impact of race on place and vice versa.

Consider the topics listed under the Presearch column of our Padlet.

In the end, your question is not going to be something that Google can answer.
Example

Stone mountain...environment, opportunities

my neighborhood, work location, daughter’s school

Impact on students’ lives??
Getting to know your topic

Next, ask yourself these basic questions about your topic:

Who?
What?
When?
Where?
Example

Who is affected by systemic racism in my community?

What is the result of this?

When does it begin?

Where can I see it?
Getting to know your topic times two

DO it again, ask yourself these basic questions again about your topic, coming up with a different approach or viewpoint:

Who?
What?
When?
Where?
Example

Who is teaching the youth about systemic racism in my community?

What is the format and available resources?

When does it occur?

Where does it occur?
Narrowing down the why?

Now write three why questions about your topic.

1. Why would America treat minorities this way?
2. Why would some teachers choose not to empower students with this information?
3. Why is it important to teach?
Narrowing down the how?

Now write three how questions about your topic.

1. How would this knowledge help students?
2. How would students feel after receiving this information?
3. How would other stakeholders respond?
Getting to Your Real Research Question

According to the Charles Evans Hughes Middle School website, “Research questions deal with big ideas, changes over time, different points of view, ethical issues, etc” (“Writing Research Questions”).

They typically deal with how and why, and combinations of these.
SO, what do I need to do?

Big changes: The internet, specifically social media and liberal access to information enables more students to be more informed.

Ideas: Information can lead to action.

Changes over time: Tic Toc, free research databases, free news.

Different points of view: Some teachers teach information about systemic racism, while others don’t.

Ethical Issues: Hmm...what about those parents who may want to shelter their children?
Combine Your How and Why Sentences:

Why does the instruction on systemic racism vary and how can the knowledge of systemic racism benefit students?