

**Political Science 4610 – Senior Thesis in Political Science**  
**ASSIGNMENT: Research Question**

Due Friday, September 14, 12:00PM by e-mail ([mag@cpp.edu](mailto:mag@cpp.edu))

**No late assignments will be accepted.**

A **research question** is an academic puzzle. Academic research attempts to answer questions about the world in a systematic manner. Before embarking on a research project, every scholar must pose a question. Research questions are not only fascinating puzzles about the world, but good questions can be answered using the conventions of your scholarly field.

Parameters:

- 1-2 paragraphs suggested
- One page maximum
- Single-spaced or double-spaced
- 12-point, Times New Roman font
- File must be in .doc or .docx format

This assignment intends for you to develop your research question as concisely as possible.

For this assignment, address the following (in prose, not bulletpoint or numbered statements):

1. Begin your paper by describing your topic in no more than one or two sentences.
2. Choose ONE research question to address in your thesis. What is this question? **Bold this question in your paper.**
3. Can you identify the main concepts or ideas in your question? What are these concepts? How do these concepts relate to each other? (Most projects will have two concepts.)
4. At the end of the assignment, provide a one or two sentence statement that summarizes the answer or expectations to your research question. This is an early draft of your argument.