**Research Project Research Question Refinement Record SACE No: 123465X**

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| *Date* | *Research Question* | *Notes – justify your changes* |
| 1/2/2014 | Gardening | This is the general topic that I am interested in because it’s how I spend a lot of my time outside of school. |
| 1/2/2014 | Is gardening fun? | This is my first go at turning my topic into a question. I have chosen it because heaps of my friends find it weird that I enjoy gardening so I want my research to show to people like them that it is fun. |
| 2/2/2014 | How to be a good gardener | I have turned my topic into an open question using “How” because before there could only be a yes or no answer. |
| 2/2/2014 | How can someone become a good gardener? | My critical friend made me realise that my question wasn’t actually a question, so I’ve reworded it so it can have a question mark at the end. |
| 6/2/2014 | How can someone become a professional gardener? | I have been thinking about what I mean by a “good” gardener. I think what I really mean is what can I do to become so good at gardening that I could actually earn a living from it. So I’ve changed my focus to getting a job in gardening. |
| 8/2/2014 | How can someone become an outstanding gardener?  Guiding questions:  What does it take to be an outstanding amateur gardener?  What does it take to be an outstanding professional gardener? | I started my research about getting a career in gardening and realised it was a bit too simple. It was basically like repeating the career plan I did for PLP last year. I’m still interested in the people who have amazing gardens at their houses and they don’t necessarily do it for a living. So my teacher suggested I can have guiding questions so that my research can look at both amateurs (don’t get paid) and professionals (get paid).  **This is the version of my Research Question that I will use for my Proposal.** |
| 16/2/2014 | More guiding questions:  What is the difference between gardening with exotic and native plants?  What’s the difference between gardening and horticulture? | I have started my vocabulary list for my folio and am getting better at using the technical terms for my topic. I’m starting to see that there are lots of different ways to garden that I hadn’t thought of before. It’s helped me add some more guiding questions. |
| 24/3/2014 | What is the best type of home garden to plant in South Australia? | I met my first expert this week and she told me there is actually a big debate about what kind of gardens we should plant. Some people think we should plant natives to get the landscape looking like it was before we cleared all the area for housing and also those plants save water. There is also a big movement for people to grow their own fruit and vegetables. So I think I’m going to take that up because it is a lot more interesting than just looking at the skills gardeners have. |
| 5/4/2014 | What is the best type of home garden to plant in northern Adelaide? | I’ve narrowed down the scope of my question by limiting the area to northern Adelaide. I realised that there are just too many different climatic zones in South Australia to cover them all in my RP. I would have had to compare outback gardens in places like Roxby Downs to places with really high rainfall like Mt Gambier. It’s just too complicated so I’m going to stick with our local area. |
| 17/4/2014 | Guiding question: How can we encourage home gardeners to adopt this approach? | Now that I think I have a good idea of what kinds of plants we should be planting around here, I want to explore how we can actually get people to do it. This is going to change my research outcome for sure. |
| 5/5/2014 | Guiding question: What alternatives are available for people who don’t have access to a home garden? | One of my friends said he thinks my research is kind of interesting but it didn’t matter to him because he lives in a flat and doesn’t have a garden. That reminded me of a brochure my expert gave me about community gardens where people who haven’t got a garden or just have a small one can share some land instead. It could also apply to people like my aunty who rent a house and aren’t allowed to change the garden. |
| 7/5/2014 | Guiding question: Can gardening have social benefits as well as environmental ones? | It’s kind of funny how this goes back to my very first try at writing a research question but I want to put something back in my report about what makes gardening fun. I visited Joe’s Community Garden and the volunteers there said that they really go because they like gardening with their friends. It made me realise that the answer to my main research question is based on what is the best garden for the environment but of course people don’t just do gardening for that reason. |
| 20/5/2014 | What are the top five types of home garden that should be planted in northern Adelaide? | **This will be the final version of my question.** I’ve decided to go for “top five” instead of “the best” because from my research I’ve found that it depends on what you are trying to get out of gardening and also what kind of home garden you have. |