## The 9 Ws

The 9Ws refers to question starters that can help you explore a topic.



Why use the 9Ws?



Use the 9W questions to develop your ideas and thoughts. NB. Not all questions are relevant to every topic.

## The 9W questions and question prompts

The 6Ws	Questions to prompt exploration of a topic
What?	What is it? What is it about? What is the subject and main ideas?
Where?	Where is it? Where did this idea come from?
When?	When was this produced? When is this applicable?
How?	How did this occur? How should this be applied?
Who?	Who wrote this? Who is the intended audience? Who is this about?
Why?	Why is this important? Why was this written? Why does the author have these views? Why did the author write this?
3 More Ws	Questions to promote thinking more critically about a topic
What's wanting?	What information is missing?
What in the world?	What can I get from other sources to complete the information?
What's wild?	What information is unexpected or contradictory?

## References

Shandler, B. (2014). The 6Ws [Online course]. LinkedIn Learning. https://www.linkedin.com/learning/

Shandler, B. (2014). Three more Ws [Online course]. LinkedIn Learning. https://www.linkedin.com/learning/

**Updated December 2021** 

