Research and Rhetorical Invention can at times seem like separate concerns.

However, it is important to consider the rhetorical situation when doing research, a process which can begin by examining the exigence, or the problem that prompted you to write.

To generate research questions, it can be helpful to consider the following categories:

 ✓ **Questions about Causes** - Why does this happen?
   - ex. Why did the United States invade Iraq?

 ✓ **Questions about Consequences** - What are the results of this?
   - ex. What effect has the deterioration of the ozone layer had on the environment?

 ✓ **Questions about Processes** - How does this work?
   - ex. How are presidential campaigns funded?

 ✓ **Questions about Definitions** - What does this mean?
   - ex. How do you know if you are addicted to something?

 ✓ **Questions about Values** - Is this right, wrong?
   - ex. Should indigenous tribes be allowed to hunt whales?

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