

- 1 Dare to build upon the research of others
- 2 Dare to make *motivated* choices
- 3 Always define the most important concepts
- 4 Explain flaws in the research yourself
- 5 Make a clear distinction between analytical and normative judgement
- 6 Strive for the highest possible integrity
- 7 Be critical
- 8 Good research is disciplined and realistic

Table A.1 Research Choices

Topic	Choice and motivation
The problem	Choice of a problem definition: why have you defined the problem like this?
Research aim	<input type="checkbox"/> basic; <input type="checkbox"/> applied; <input type="checkbox"/> action-oriented; <input type="checkbox"/> evaluation (⊕A2, A3)
Level of analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> micro; <input type="checkbox"/> meso; <input type="checkbox"/> macro; <input type="checkbox"/> meta; <input type="checkbox"/> a particular combination
Theories	If available, make a choice from at least three related approaches
Methods	Specify your choice for one or a combination of methods e.g. by stating the strengths and weaknesses of each method
Stakeholder perspective	Whose perspective do you want to take into account in this research project? Make your choice of a particular actor (manager, trade union, government) clear. Be selective
Sources	What kind of sources did you search for in particular: <input type="checkbox"/> primary, <input type="checkbox"/> secondary, <input type="checkbox"/> tertiary What is the strength and the weakness of these sources? (⊕A6, E1)
'Audience'	Who are you addressing with your research? Is your audience the same as your stakeholder? Or do you consider the research project valuable for others as well?



A1 Ten principles of Critical Research

Ten Principles of Critical Research

- 1 Continuously ask the 'why' question (at least three times in building up an argument)
- 2 Be sceptical of the reliability of sources
- 3 Always know the background (either editorial, personal or otherwise) of your sources.
- 4 Think! Evade obvious questions
- 5 Prepare!
- 6 Always question arguments
- 7 Always check the appropriateness of quantitative data
- 8 Be realistic about what you can achieve as an individual researcher
- 9 Make sure that your research can be replicated and your hypotheses refuted (falsified)
- 10 Be modest regarding what you can know as a subjective human being