



Finding Your Research Question

LC Business 2027 – Investigative Study

Student Worksheet – Group Activity

The three things every research question needs

Gate 1

A named digital technology

Name it specifically – not just “technology”

Gate 2

A specific work practice

One part of the job, not the whole job

Gate 3

Employer OR employee

Not both – pick one focus

Scenario 1 **Mechanic**

What a Mechanic said when we asked him how some tech has changed their job:

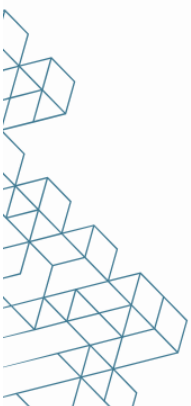
“Before, you’d have a car come in and you’d spend half the morning just trying to figure out what was wrong with it. Now I plug in the diagnostic tool and it tells me exactly what the fault code is in about two minutes. It’s quicker, but you still need to know what you’re doing – the machine doesn’t fix it for you.”

Spot the three things:

Digital technology	Work practice changed	Impact on the employee

Which research question is stronger?

Version A	Version B
<i>How has technology changed the work of mechanics?</i>	<i>How has the introduction of digital diagnostic software changed the fault-finding work practice of mechanics in local garages?</i>
Circle the stronger question. Why is it stronger?	



Scenario 2 **Physio**

What a physio said when we asked him how some tech has changed their job:

"I give patients an app now where they log their exercises and it shows them exactly how to do each one with videos, so I don't have to spend half the appointment demonstrating anymore. I can see how often they're actually doing them too. It's handy because I know before they even come in whether they've been keeping up. But it also means I'm checking the app between appointments, which I wouldn't have been doing before."

Spot the three things:

Digital technology	Work practice changed	Impact on the employee

Which research question is stronger and why?

Version A	Version B
<i>How has technology changed the work of physiotherapists?</i>	<i>How has remote rehabilitation monitoring software changed the patient management work practice of physiotherapists in private clinics?</i>

Scenario 3 **Food delivery - kitchen**

Food delivery - kitchen – *Third-party delivery app (Just Eat)*

"Since we signed up to Just Eat the orders don't stop. Before, you'd have a quiet spell and the kitchen could catch a breath. Now the tablet just keeps going, especially on a Friday night. The lads in the kitchen are under pressure in a way they weren't before."

Spot the three things:

Digital technology	Work practice changed	Impact on the employee

Which research question is stronger and why?

Version A	Version B
<i>How has Just Eat affected restaurants?</i>	<i>How has third-party delivery app ordering changed the workload of kitchen employees in independent takeaways?</i>



Scenario 4 **Sports coach**

Sports coach – Video analysis software (Hudl)

"I use Hudl to record matches and break down the footage. I can clip specific moments and send them to players during the week. It's brilliant for analysis but it takes hours. I'd nearly spend as much time on the laptop as I do on the training pitch."

Spot the three things:

Digital technology	Work practice changed	Impact on the employee

Which research question is stronger and why?

Version A	Version B
<i>How has technology changed coaching?</i>	<i>How has video analysis software changed the match preparation work practice of sports coaches at club level?</i>

Scenario 5 **Aldi - shop floor**

Aldi - shop floor – Self-service till technology

"The self-service tills need someone watching them the whole time. Customers get stuck, things don't scan right, you get the odd person trying to chance it. It's actually more interaction with customers than the regular till was, just a different kind."

Spot the three things:

Digital technology	Work practice changed	Impact on the employee

Which research question is stronger and why?

Version A	Version B
<i>How have self-service tills changed working in a supermarket?</i>	<i>How has self-service till technology changed the customer assistance work practice of employees on the shop floor at Aldi?</i>



Scenario 6 Estate agent

Estate agent – Virtual viewing software

"We do virtual tours now for most properties before anyone comes to view in person. I record them, edit them, upload them. It cuts down on wasted viewings but it's added a whole other job on top of what I was already doing."

Spot the three things:

Digital technology	Work practice changed	Impact on the employee

Which research question is stronger?

Version A	Version B
<i>How has technology changed the work of estate agents?</i>	<i>How has virtual viewing software changed the property presentation work practice of employees in estate agencies?</i>

Scenario 7 Retail - social media

Retail - social media – Instagram as a marketing tool

"Before, the owner would book a radio ad every couple of months and that was the marketing done. Now I'm doing three or four posts a week minimum, stories, reels, the whole lot. I check the analytics to see what's getting engagement and adjust what we post. It kind of landed on me because I'm the youngest but it was never in my job description."

Spot the three things:

Digital technology	Work practice changed	Impact on the employee

Which research question is stronger?

Version A	Version B
<i>How has social media changed retail?</i>	<i>How has Instagram as a marketing tool changed the content creation work practice of employees in small retail businesses?</i>



Scenario 8 Creche worker

Creche worker – Digital child monitoring app

"We use an app to log everything - nappy changes, meals, naps, any incidents. Parents can see it in real time. It's great for them but we're updating it constantly throughout the day. Sometimes I feel like I'm spending as much time on the phone as I am with the children."

Spot the three things:

Digital technology	Work practice changed	Impact on the employee

Which research question is stronger?

Version A	Version B
<i>How has technology changed working in a creche?</i>	<i>How has digital child monitoring software changed the daily reporting work practice of childcare employees in creches?</i>

Your turn

Who do you know who works? What could you ask them?

Think of people you could talk to.

A family member	Someone in a local business	A neighbour or anyone else

Three questions to ask:

1 *What technology do you use at work now that you didn't use a few years ago?*

2 *What part of your job has changed because of it?*

3 *Has that change made your job easier, harder, or just different – and why?*

Bring it back to class. *What technology did they name? What part of their job changed? What can you investigate from what you have found?*

