Generating ideas: trigger questions

Unfortunately, when anybody tells you to generate your own ideas, they mostly end up just giving you vague, unhelpful advice. They might tell you to, 'Think for yourself', like telling you to be clever, or suggest you 'Ask yourself questions', which doesn't tell you exactly what you should do.

And yet, there is a simple, organised, systematic way in which we can all do this. The first thing we do is work through a list of trigger questions we routinely ask ourselves to assemble ideas.

Trigger list – four rules

1	Generate as many questions as possible
2	Make them as clear and specific as you can
3	Collect new, interesting questions and add them to your list
4	Pursue them as far as they will go

For more information, see *How to Write Your Literature Review*, Chapter 4.