

Course:04

The choice of subject and the supervisor

I-The choice of subject

The choice of a thesis subject must be carried out with the greatest seriousness in close collaboration with its research director. Given the very large number of themes, it may be difficult to find a completely blank research topic, but it is nevertheless important to avoid becoming attached to a subject that has already been covered.

1.1 The choice of the subject assumes:

*Preliminary personal reflection.

*Good adaptation to your personality and talents.

* Inspiration from your personality, your intellectual interests and priorities.

*A relationship with your tastes, your projects, the courses taken in previous years and which may have aroused particular interest (the student must make an inventory of his or her areas of interest). When the first idea is fixed, and before the meeting with the teacher in the field of specialty, the student must begin to put together a first bibliography. After this personal research phase, the choice of the subject of the requested work can then be determined.

1.2. Topics can come from any source:

*Your teacher (tutor) may suggest something;

* A friend could awaken a new area of interest in you;

*The internet is a mine of discoveries.

1.3-You must give yourself the time and means to choose the research topic:

Too many people rush into a theme without really seeing the reality of the problem they choose to address. Such a choice implies time to accomplish the actions that allow it. In this sense, you must:

* Document yourself;

* Make contacts;

* Carry out an interim assessment;

* Undertake multiple and diverse steps;

* If you have deadlines to present your project, be careful, you will need to give yourself time to choose. In all situations, the choice of the research theme must take into account:

***History:** to recall what is known about the research subject.

***The situation of the research subject:** is it just beginning or we are well advanced. In other words, is it current or old?

***The problem and the working hypotheses:** that is to say that among the questions that have remained unanswered until now (all of the questions determine the problem), the student or researcher chooses a few. These will constitute its working hypotheses.

***Check the sources:** finally, before validating your choice and embarking on tedious research, check if your subject is being talked about. Your bibliography must be extensive and diversified, you must rely on press articles, works, specialized journals... so avoid getting involved in a little-known subject!

2. Four indicative rules for choosing a research subject:

Let us now propose four elementary rules for choosing a research subject:

a) The subject must interest the author;

b) Sources must be accessible

c) Sources must be treatable;

d) You must be able to master the methodology you choose.

e)The subject must be feasible. The choice of the subject is a determining stage of the project. In general, the most successful projects are the result of questioning by the student and not the submission of a question imposed by the teacher.