Effective Economic Questions Assignment

The assignment:

Reread the section in Greenlaw pertaining to “Developing an Effective Research Question,” pages 14-19. (Greenlaw, Steven. *Research Methodology: A Guide for Undergraduate Economic Research*. Hougton Mifflin Press, 2006)

Develop three effective economic research questions for your topic. Be sure to provide sub questions where necessary.

Choose two of your questions and justify each using the method described in Greenlaw.

Goal of this assignment:

Since the goal of this course is to develop a research project that answers an economic question, it is critical that you develop an effective economic question. An effective economic question should be translatable into a specific hypothesis or small set of hypotheses. As such, questions that are too open ended do not serve as effective economic questions. Knowing what constitutes an effective economic question will also help you with the process of answering this question later.

Additional details:

The economic questions you develop at this point will not be polished. In fact, some of them may not be at the appropriate level for this project. You will need to continually refine these as your project progresses. Later in your research you may find that your question actually changes. This can happen for a variety of reasons such as a more interesting question is revealed as you conduct your research, you find that your question was too broad to be answered in the time left in the semester, sufficient background material or data is not available to answer your question, etc. You should be flexible in conducting your research and allow for your research question to evolve. Please note that you are not locked into either your topic or your research questions at this point in time.