

1 **How to Ask Your DNA Question**

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2 **What if you had 10 minutes of an expert's time?**

Experts: Blaine Bettinger, CeCe Moore, Dr Louis Gates, bloggers like Roberta Estes, Kitty Cooper and Leah Larkin and developers like Johnny Perl, and others

3 **Asking your DNA Question**

- Background
- Key elements of a question
- Examples
- Opportunities for Asking a DNA question

4 **Background - Everton's Genealogical Helper**

- Started in 1947
- Industry bible for over 50 years
- Questioner provided:
 - Their name
 - Mailing address for contact
 - Subject name/location/timeframe
 - Statement of question
- 200 issues searchable at MyHeritage.com

5 **Background – Your Research question -concept of defining your Research Question**

- What's your objective? Be specific
- Known facts and what's missing
- Working hypothesis – what do I want to prove?
- Research strategy – summarize efforts to date

6 **Example of a DNA genealogy research question**

1 Criteria

2 What's your objective?

Known facts and what's missing

Working hypothesis – what do I want to prove?

Research strategy – efforts to date

7 **Examples of DNA genealogy research questions**

8 **Ten Minute Methodology (BCG)**

Slow down

Ask one question at a time

Identify a unique individual, group or event

Specify what you want to learn

Work from known to unknown

9 **DNA Question example #1**

10 **DNA Question example #2**

11 **DNA Question example #3**

12 **DNA Question example #4**

13 **DNA Question example #5**

- 14 **What have we learned? – the Basics**
- Introduce yourself – “My name is...”
 - Speak slowly and clearly
 - Keep it specific
 - Keep it short
 - Pause to allow for response
 - Listen to the answer
 - Repeat what you heard to show you understood
 - Thank them for their help
- 15 **What have we learned? – the Question**
- What is your objective?
 - Verify a relationship
 - Prove a hypothesis
 - Clarify next steps
- 16 **What have we learned? – the Known Facts**
- Type of test
 - Testing company
 - DNA shared with subject of the question
 - Ethnicity
 - Potential relationship
 - Exceptions
- 17 **What have we learned? – the Hypothesis**
- Evaluate initial information
 - Eliminate assumptions
- 18 **What have we learned? – the Research strategy**
- What to test
 - Where to test
 - Who to test
 - What to do with results
 - Other evidence required
- 19 **Opportunities for asking DNA Questions**
Chat rooms, Facebook genealogy groups, Genealogical Societies, Conferences
- 20 **Opportunities for asking DNA Questions**
Collaborate with friends, seek out feedback
- 21 **Well-constructed questions to: bonnie.belza@gmail.com**
- 22 **References:**
- Everton's Genealogical Helper, MyHeritage.com [online database], MyHeritage Ltd., <https://records.myheritagelibraryedition.com/research/collection-10015/evertons-genealogical-helper>
 - Board for Certification of Genealogists, www.bgc certification.org
 - “Ten-Minute Methodology: How to Ask Good Research Questions”, Harold Henderson, C.G., <https://bgc certification.org/ten-minute-methodology-how-to-ask-good-research-questions/>, January 28, 2016, Board for Certification of Genealogists, retrieved August 31, 2020

MY GENEALOGY DNA RESEARCH QUESTION IS:

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE (ONLY ONE QUESTION!):

KNOWN FACTS (subject, target, type of test, testing company, DNA shared, ethnicity, potential relationship – be specific):

WORKING HYPOTHESIS:

RESEARCH STRATEGY:

MY NAME/CONTACT INFORMATION:
