Developing Significant Questions

Considerations

Your question will drive the rest of your project design because it will:

- Keep you focused on what is important

- Determine what data you need to gather

- Guide you to your conclusions and recommendations

Is Your Topic Compelling?

Ask yourself:

- Is it important to you? Does it motivate you? Will it inspire you into the future?

- Does it align with your professional and department or institutional goals?

- Is it an issue you can act on and do something about?

Questions About Your Question

- Is it researchable and open-ended (what, how, why)?

- Will it add new information to the body of literature on the topic?

- Will the answer lead to an action you can take that will improve your practice?

- Will the answer be relevant to your current professional role?

- Do you have the time and resources to investigate it?

Examples

- What happens to first year English students' demonstrated information searching, retrieval, and selection skills when the length and timing of library instruction classes are changed?

- What are the differences in student learning when comparing hands-on instrument access with remote online instrument access during a first year general chemistry laboratory?

- How does gesture-based teaching affect aural/oral proficiency in beginning French learners at a post-secondary institution?

- What elements of course delivery have a positive effect on a student's decision to proceed to a more advanced level of study and on his/her performance at that level?