Research Questions

Developing a Focus to What Your Study is Evaluating

?

Jacob Campbell, LICSW

Heritage University

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Agenda

- We will **identify** the qualities of a good research question.

- We will **write** good research questions for our proposals.

Characteristics of a good (nomothetic) research question

- It is empirical, not ethical

- It is written in the form of a question

- It is clearly written

- It is not a yes/no

- It has more than one plausible

- It considers relationships among multiple variables

- It is specific and clear about the concepts it addresses

- It contains a target population

Good vs. Bad Research Questions

What percentage of youth use alcohol in Toppenish, Washington?

How does parents' educational level affect the use of alcohol among youth in Toppenish, Washington?

What are the effects of youth alcohol use in the United States?

What is the relationship between youth alcohol use and suicide ideation in Toppenish, Washington?

How many drinks does the average Toppenish youth drink in a typical week?

Good vs. Bad Research Questions

How does the number of drinks a youth has in a typical week relate to early initiation of sexual behavior?
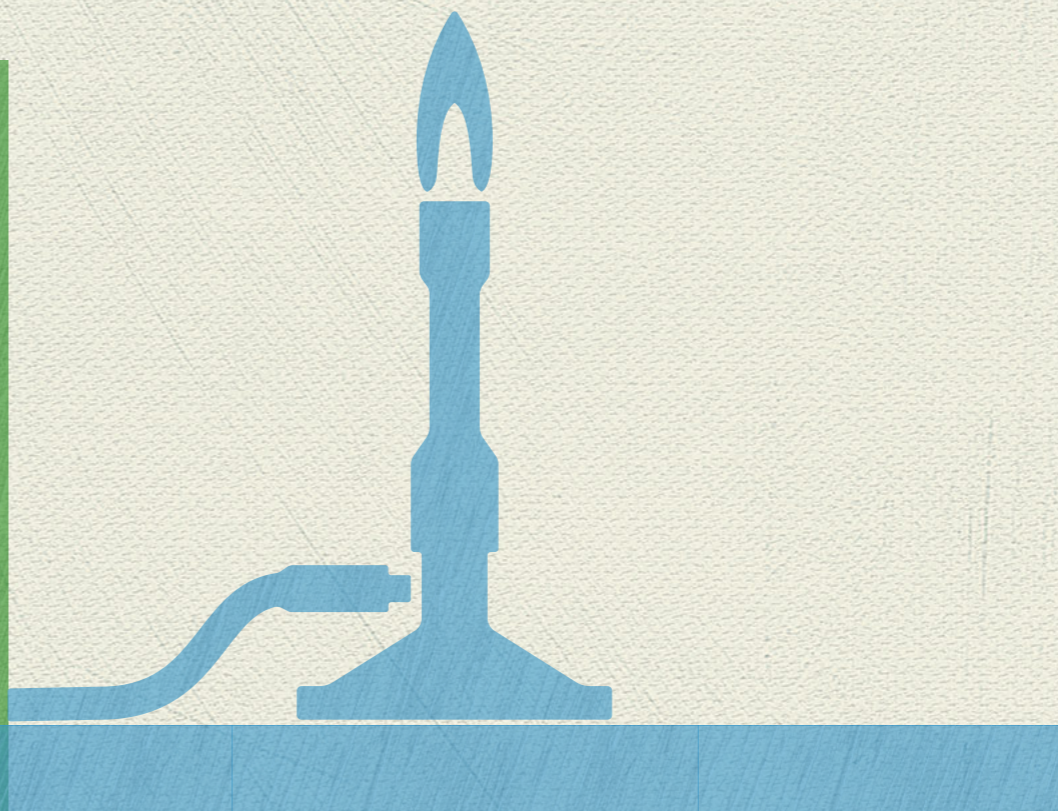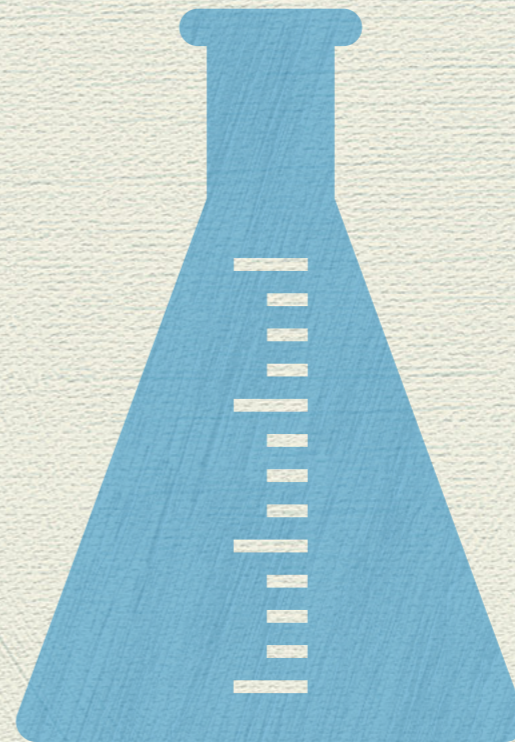
What are the causes of domestic violence?

How are schools addressing youth alcohol use?

What are the effects of alcohol prevention programs on the rate of alcohol use among Toppenish high school students?

Try It

Write a high-quality research question for your proposal.

Group Activity

Share your research questions in your group

Do they meet the criteria for a good research question

**Do they have...
An independent variable
A dependent variable
A target population**

Watch Words
IV- watch words: factors, causes
DV- watch words: effects, outcomes, effective, useful, efficient
Etc., so forth,

Qualitative Research Questions

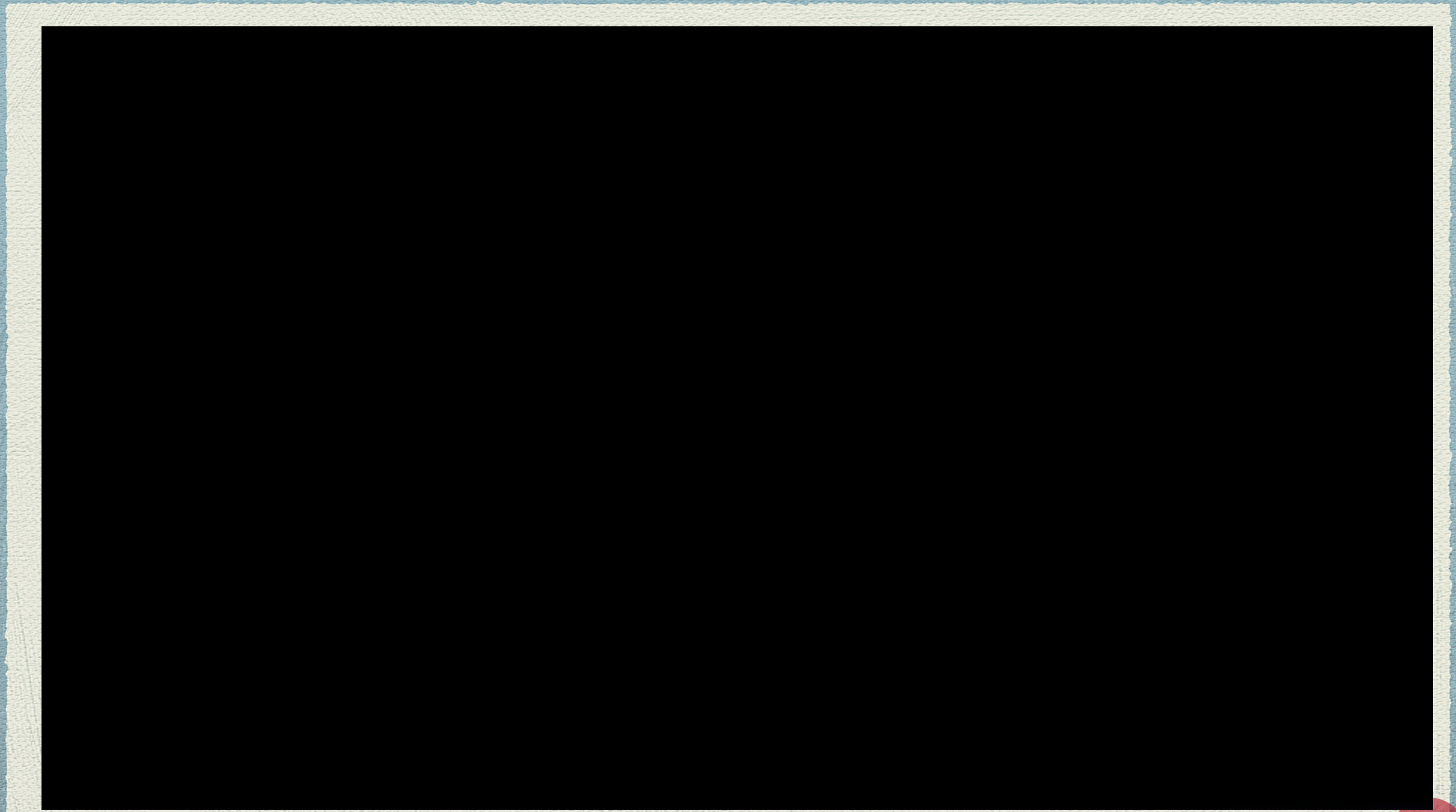| Nomothetic Questions	Idiographic questions
Theory-testing Deductive reasoning Generalizability Prediction Quantitative Independent and dependent variables. Clear causality Doesn't change during a study	What is true for a group of people, in one time and place Theory-building Inductive reasoning Understanding Qualitative Many variables, complicated connections. Open to change during a study

The power of vulnerability
Brené Brown

Nomothetic vs. Idiographic

What do you notice about this kind of research?

- Control & predict vs. listen & understand

- Clean & clear vs. unpredictable & complicated

- Objectivity & math vs. subjectivity & researcher-as-instrument

Figure 9.1 Example of Where to Find Reference Information for a Journal Article

AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

© 2018 American Psychological Association
0012-1649/18/$12.00

Date
When was this work published?

Developmental Psychology
2018, Vol. 54, No. 9, 1723–1734
http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/dev0000548

Sensitivity to the Evaluation of Others Emerges by 24 Months

Sara Valencia Botto and Philippe Rochat
Emory University

Title
What is this work called?

Author
Who is responsible for this work?

Source
Where can I retrieve this work?

Reference list entry:

Botto, S. V., & Rochat, P. (2018). Sensitivity to the evaluation of others emerges by 24 months.

       Author   **Date**   **Title**

Developmental Psychology, 54(9), 1723–1734. https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0000548

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