

Asking Compelling Research Questions

Graduate Medical Education

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FINER- A guide for strong research questions

Feasible

Interesting

Novel

Ethical

Relevant

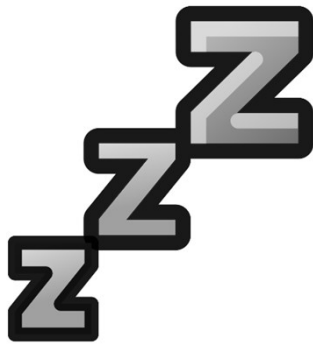
Feasible

How practical is your research question?

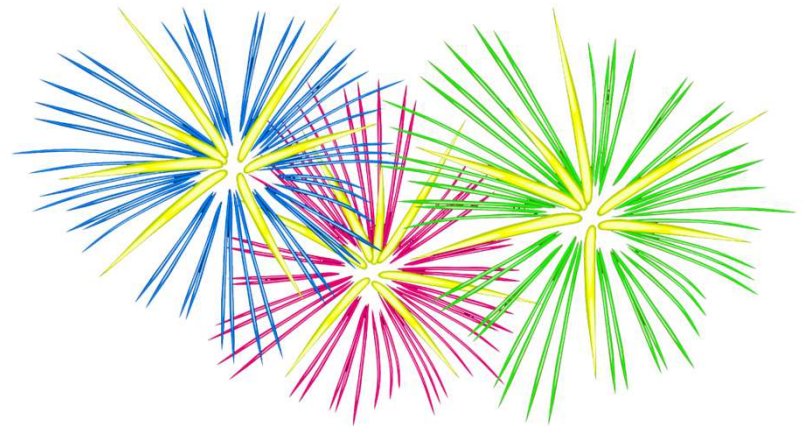
- Will you have an adequate number of subjects?
- Who will analyze the data?
- What is the project timeline?
- Do you need the assistance of a specialist?

Interesting

Is your research question thought provoking?



OR



Novel

Has this question already been answered?

Ways to check:

- Talk to your colleagues
- Conduct a literature review
- Discuss with a mentor

Ethical

All research must be ethical. If you are unsure about the ethics of your research question, you can:

- Contact your local IRB
- Check with your Division Research Director
- Discuss with a mentor

Relevant

Is this research question pertinent to current medical practices? Ask yourself the following questions:

- Will the answer to this question further scientific knowledge:
- Will the answer to this question influence medical practice and guidelines?
- Could the answer to this question shift health policy?

Knowledge Test #1:

Which of the following research questions is not feasible?

- A. How do psychiatric hospital unit designs influence the incidence of patients' aggression?
- B. Does the administration of pain medication at time of surgical incision reduce the need for pain medication twenty-four hours after surgery?
- C. Does supplying 10,000 patients with activity trackers change their long term health outcomes?

Knowledge Test #2:

What should you do if you are unsure about the ethics of your research question?

- A.** Google “What are ethics?”
- B.** Contact your local IRB
- C.** Ask the other residents in your rotation