Computing Research Project

Three steps to writing a good question

UNIVERSITY of GREENWICH
Alliance with FPT Education

Pearson BTEC

Step 1: Articulate your topic

Think about the following questions:

What do you know about this topic?

What aspects of this topic most interest you?

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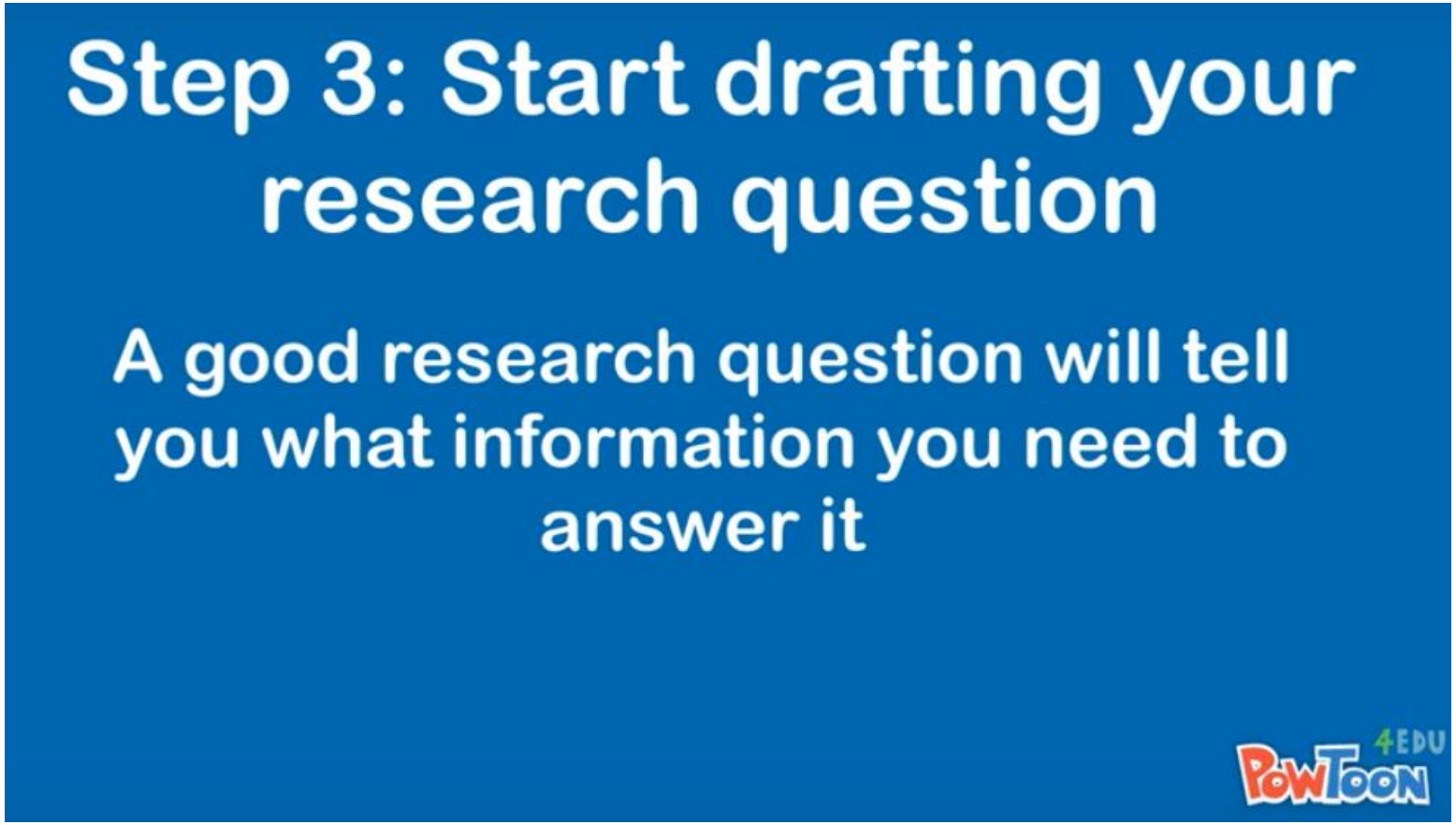
Step 2: Consider what you don't know about your topic

This will help you to determine what you need to research


Step 3: Start drafting your research question
A good research question will tell you what information you need to answer it
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A good research question is
not a
YES
question
and not a
NO
question
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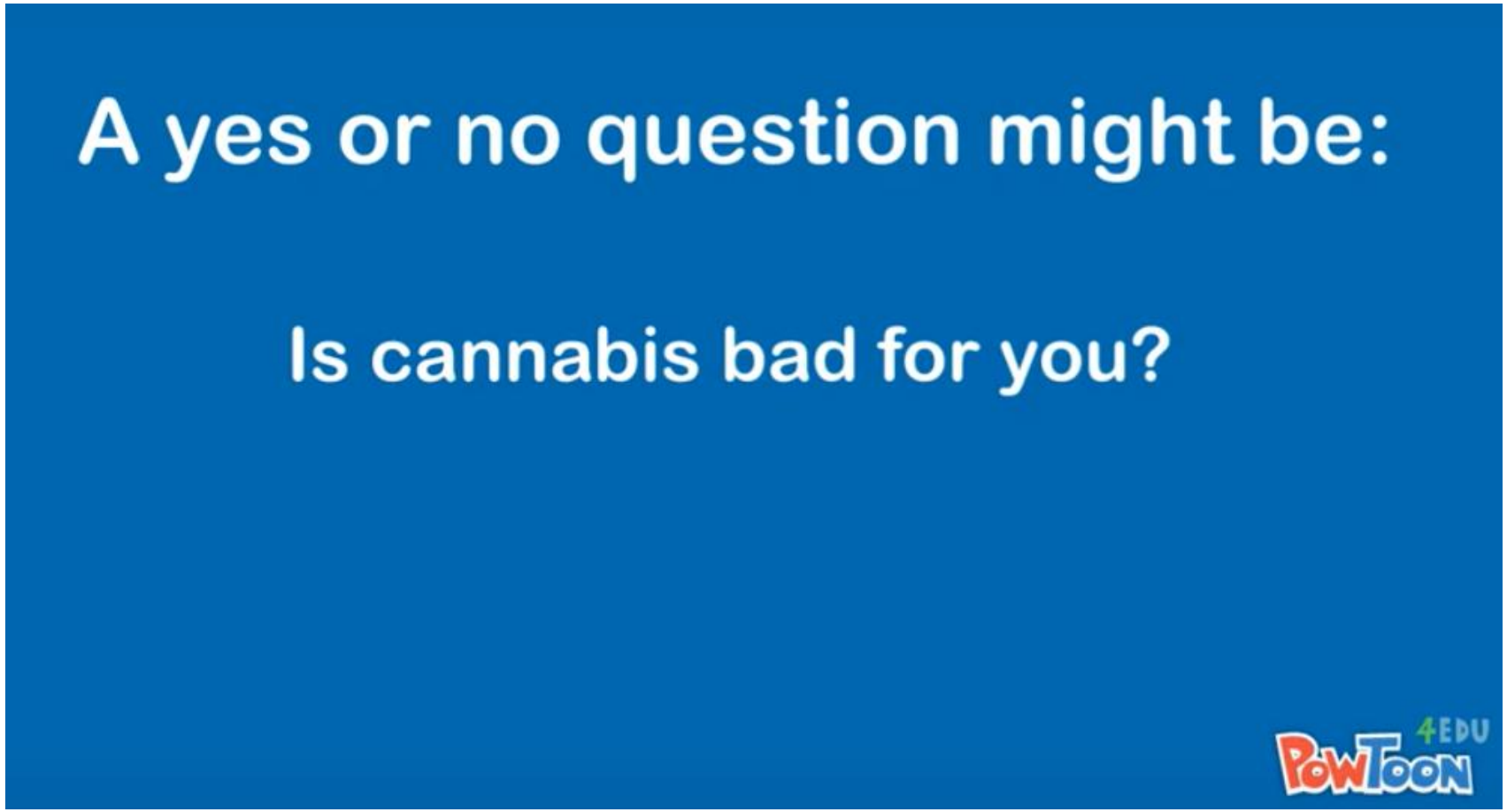
A yes or no question might be:
Is cannabis bad for you?
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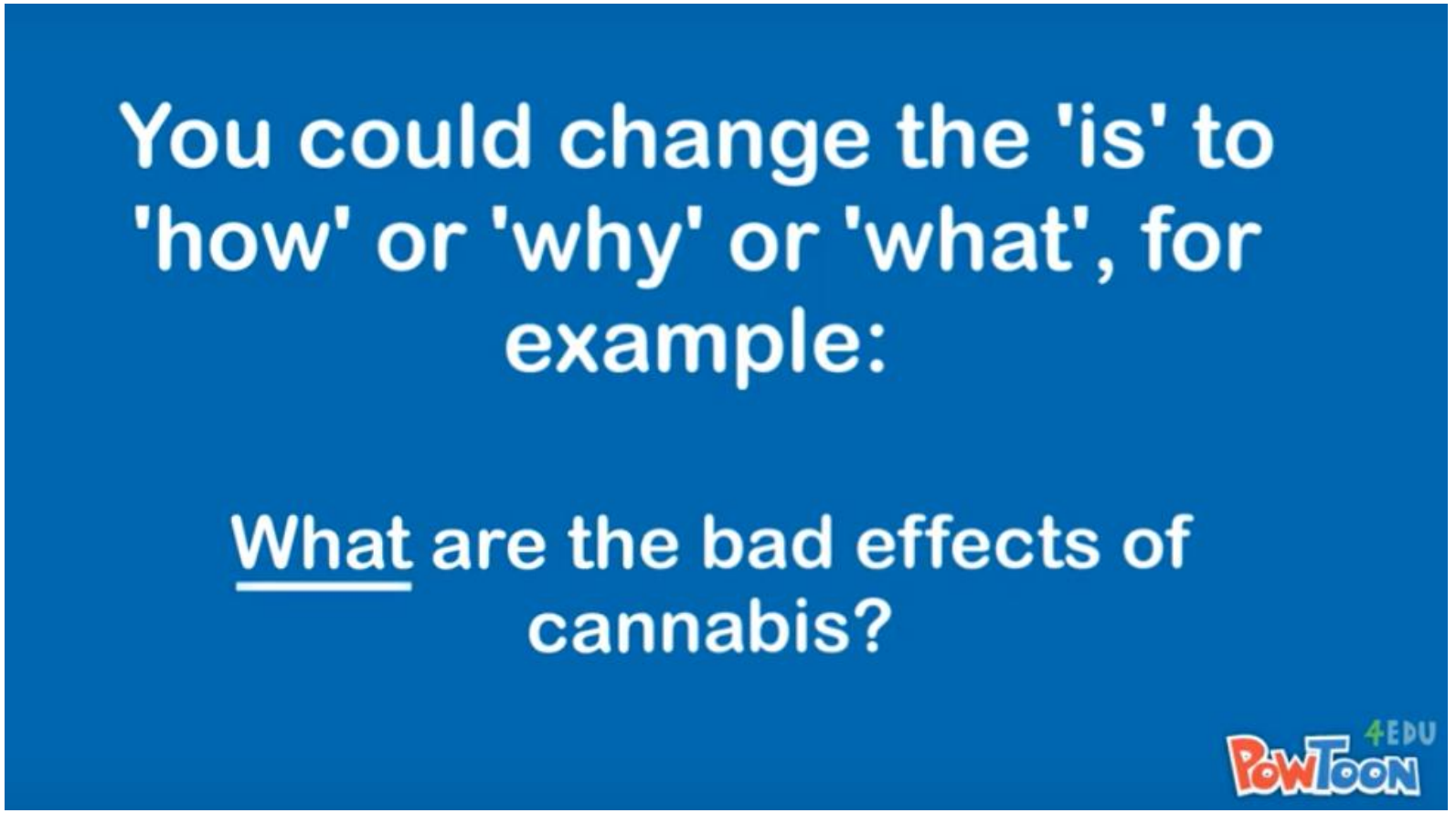
You could change the 'is' to 'how' or 'why' or 'what', for example:
What are the bad effects of cannabis?
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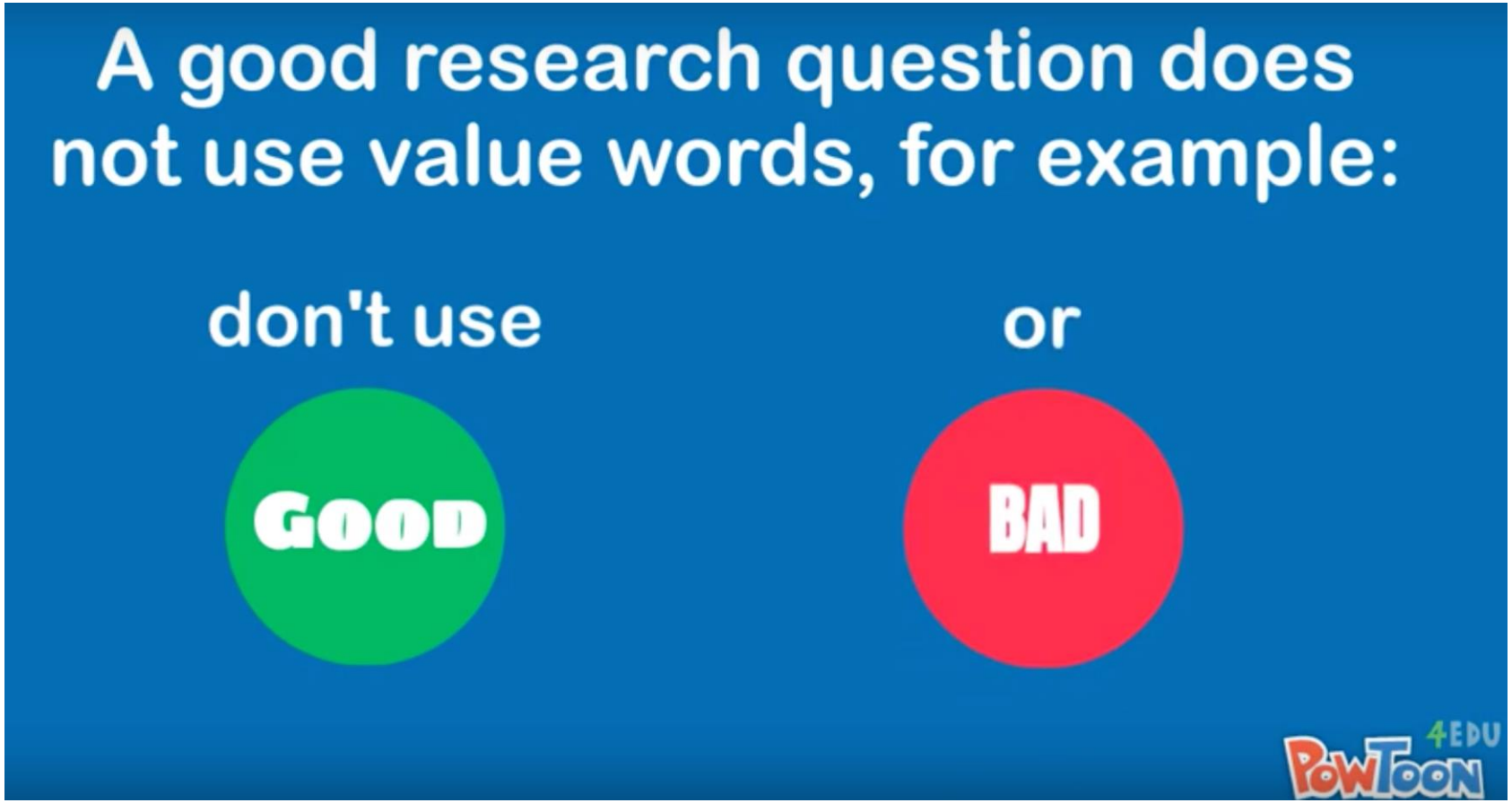
A good research question does not use value words, for example:
don't use
GOOD
or
BAD
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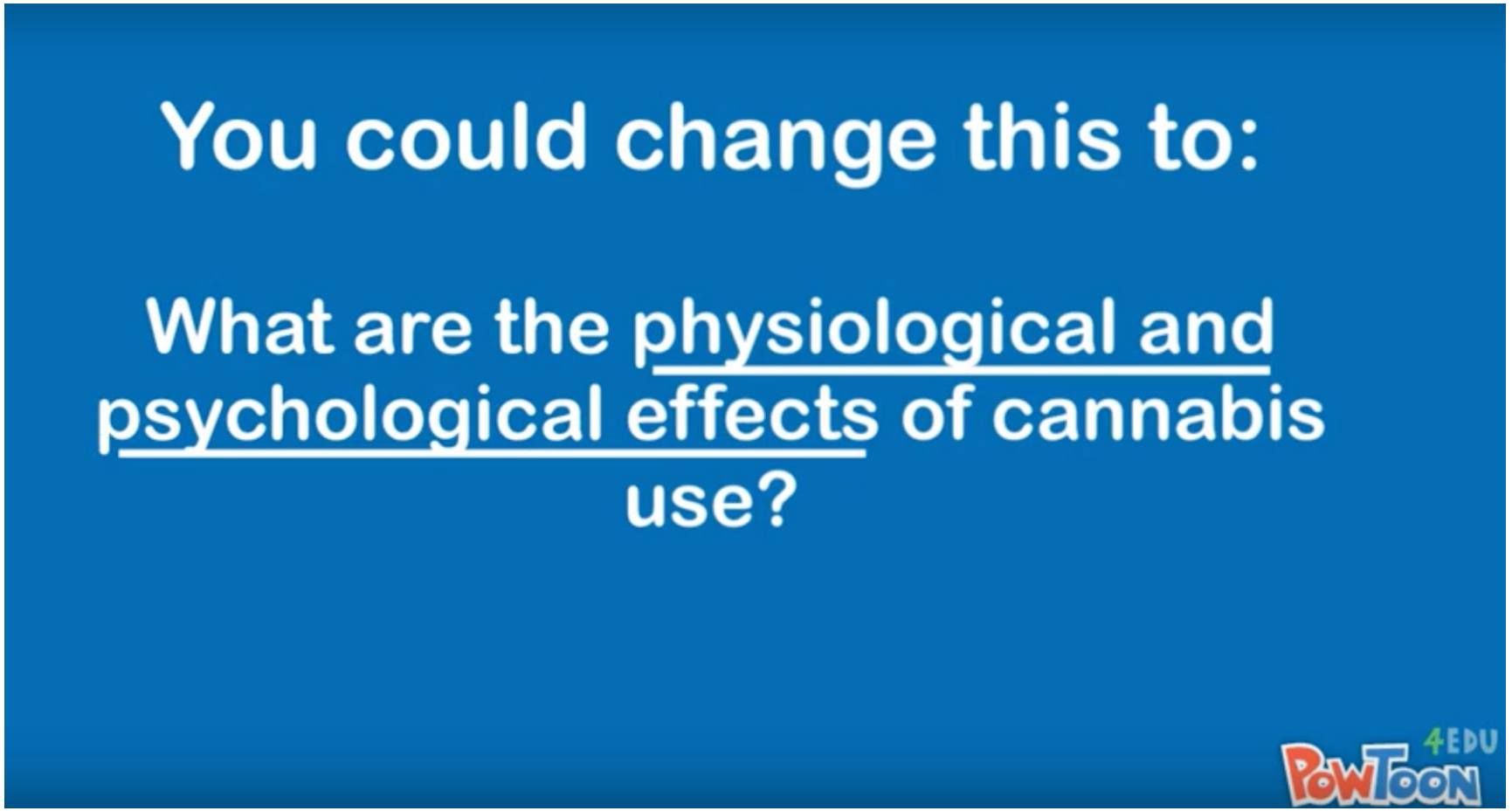
You could change this to:
What are the physiological and psychological effects of cannabis use?
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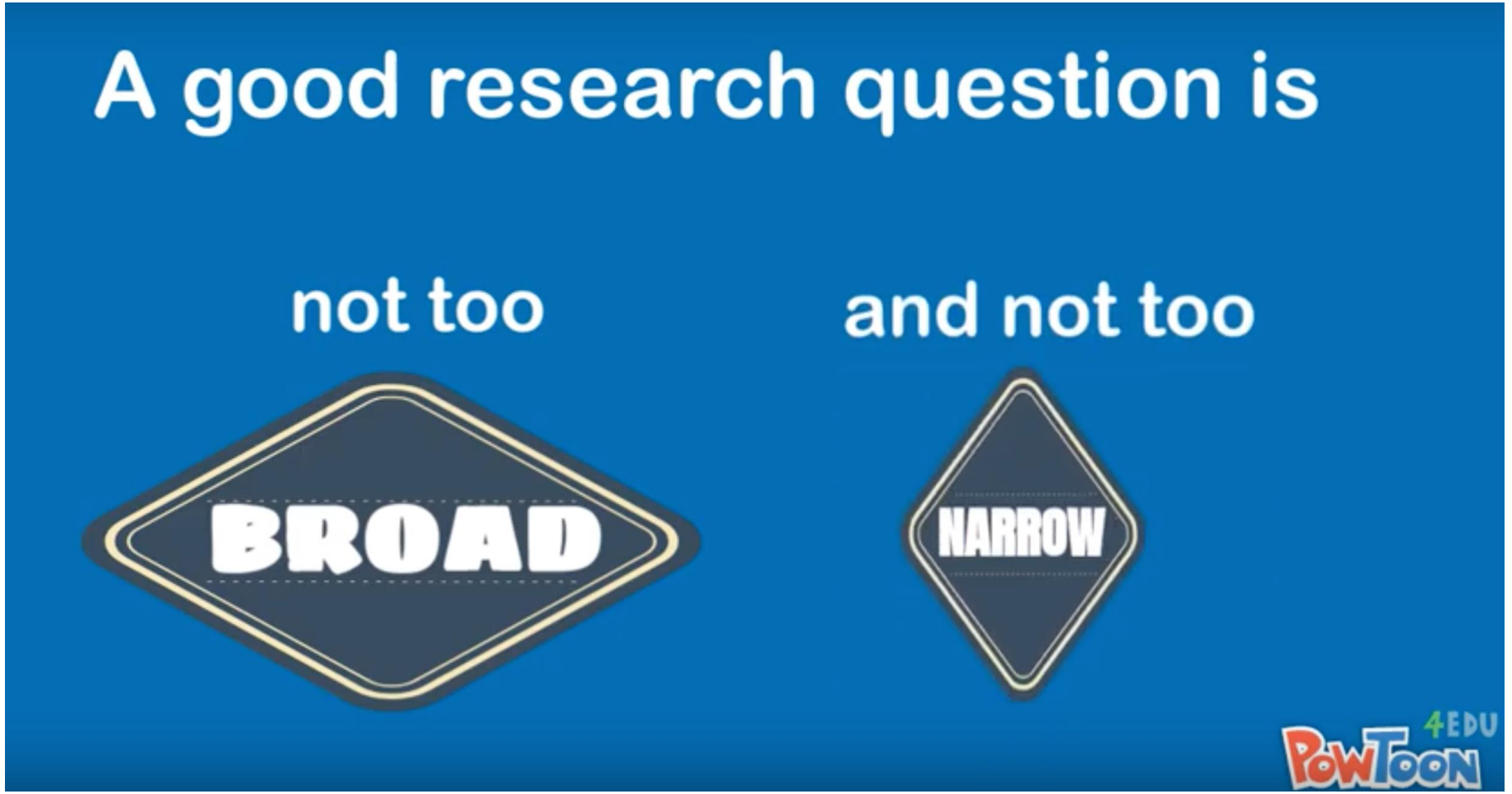
A good research question is
not too
BROAD
and not too
NARROW
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Our draft research question

What are the physiological and psychological effects of cannabis use?

might be too broad

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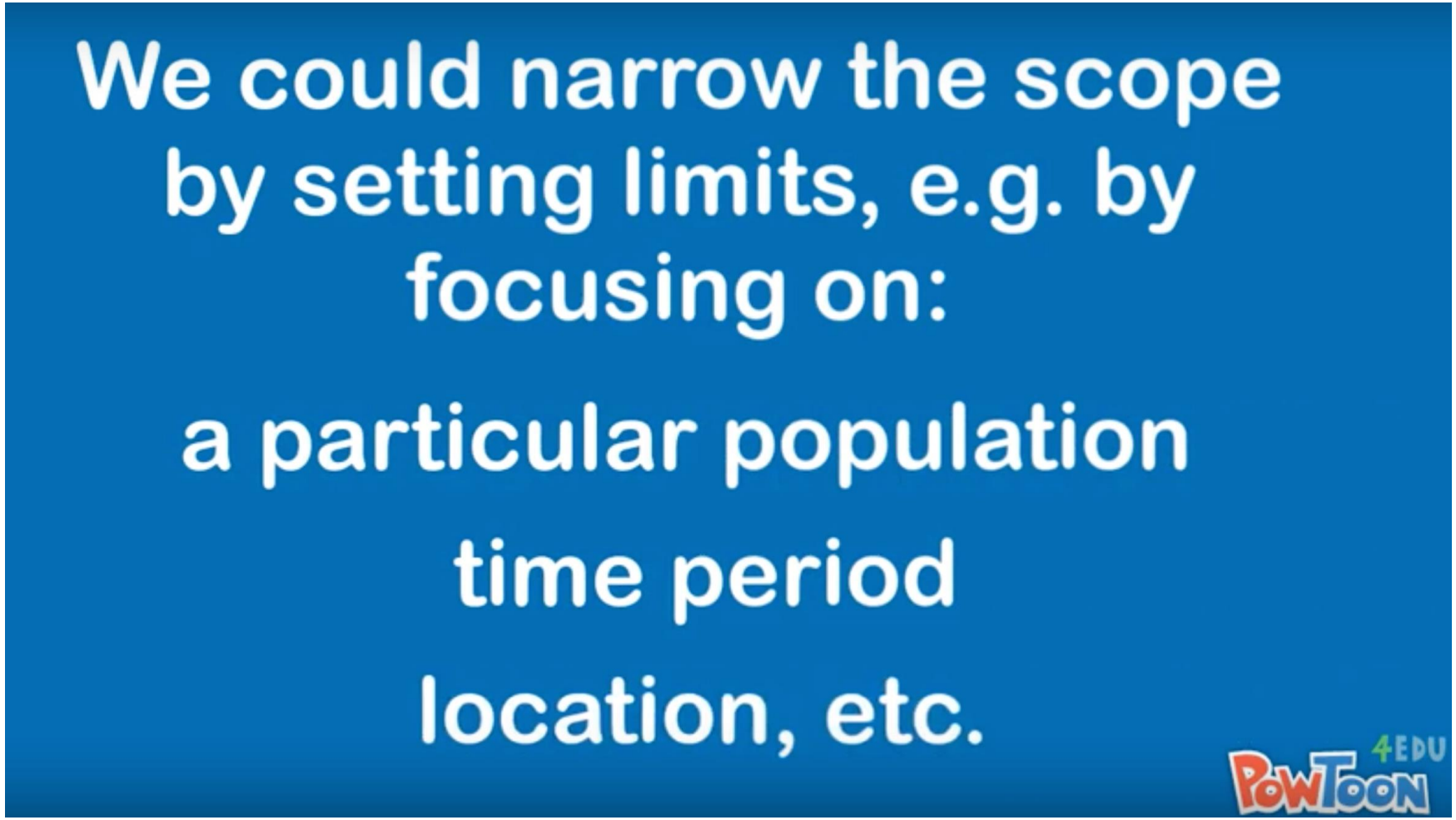
We could narrow the scope by setting limits, e.g. by focusing on:
a particular population
time period
location, etc.
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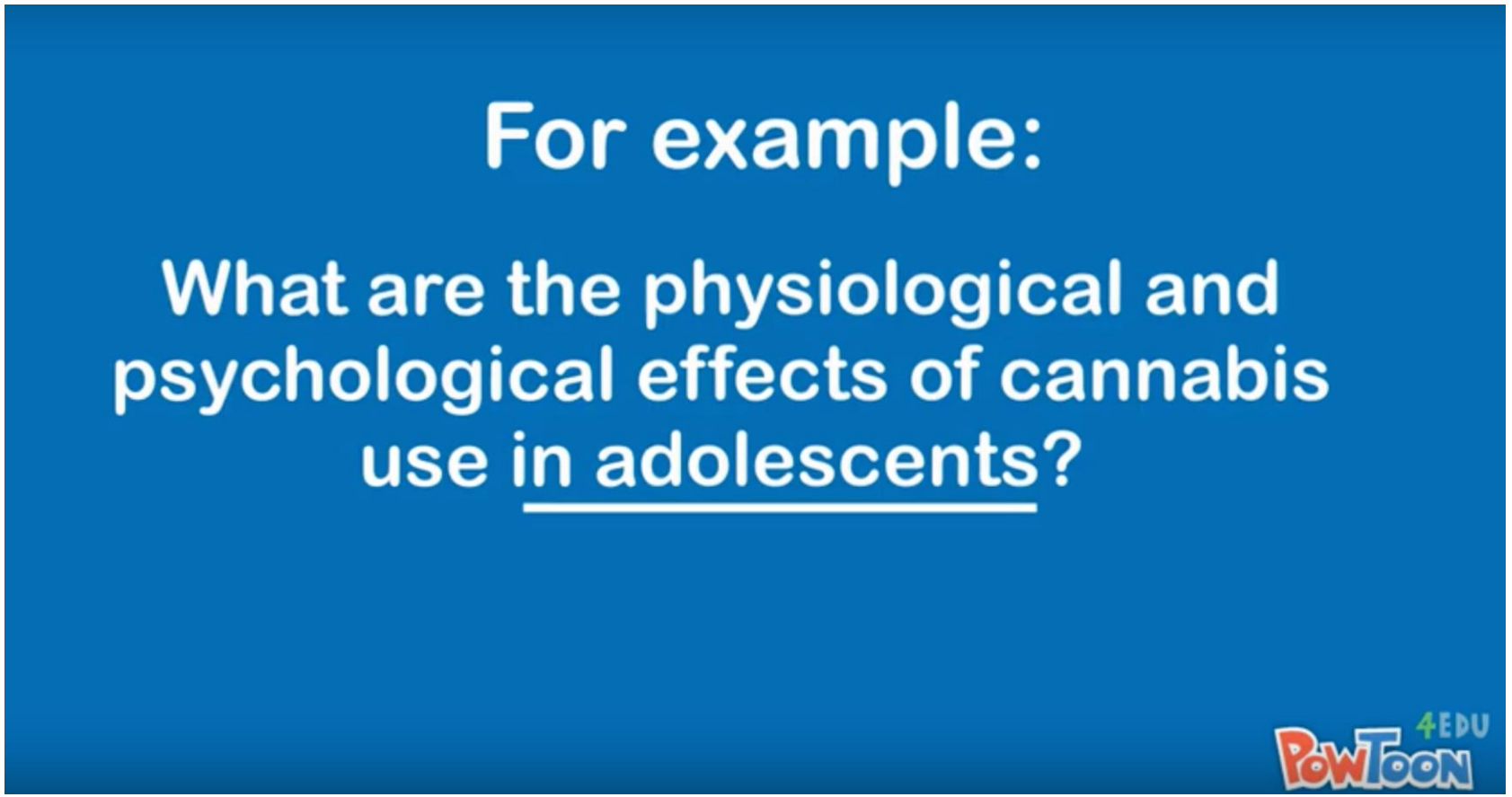
For example:
What are the physiological and psychological effects of cannabis use in adolescents?
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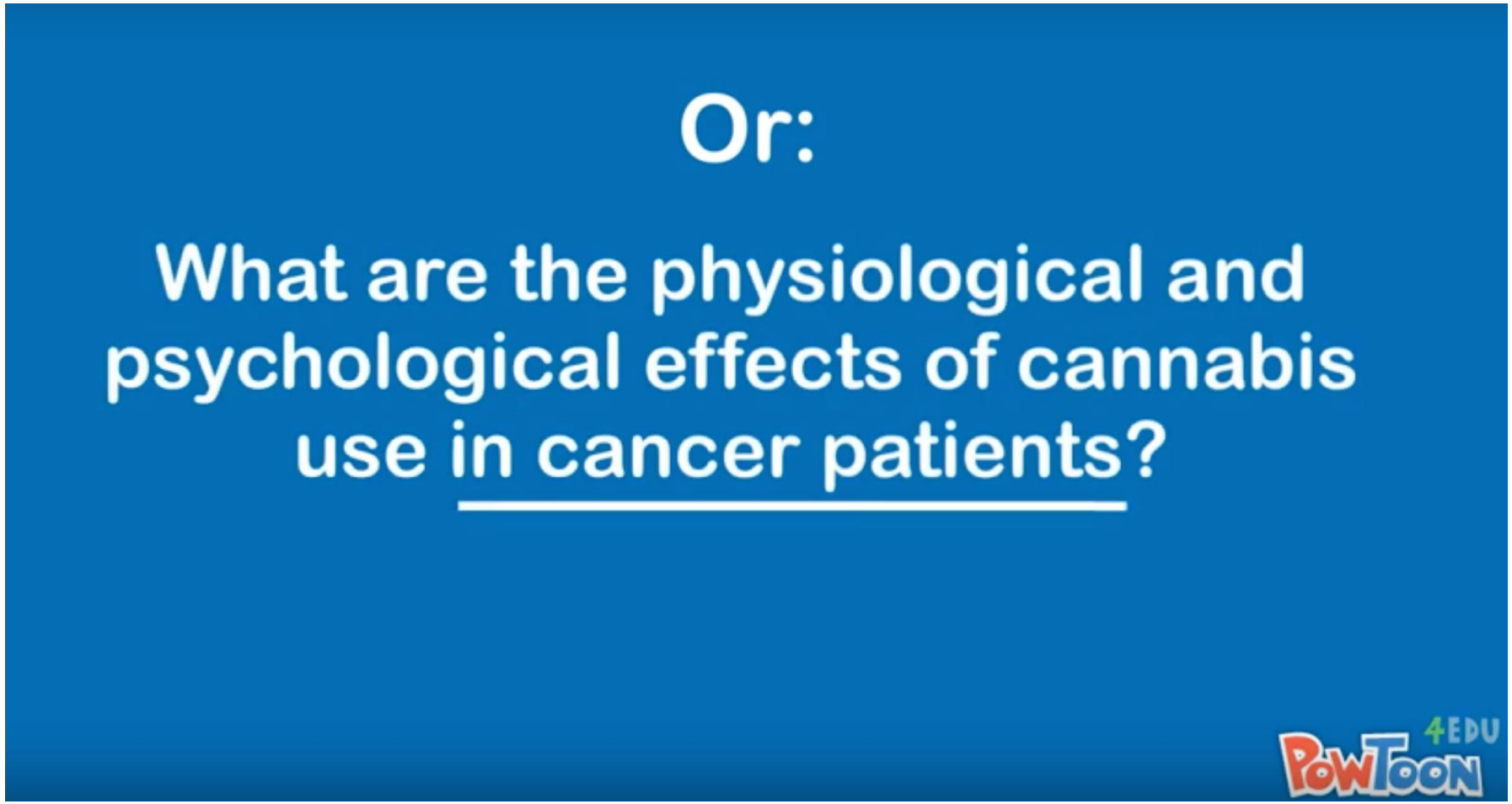
Or:
What are the physiological and psychological effects of cannabis use in cancer patients?
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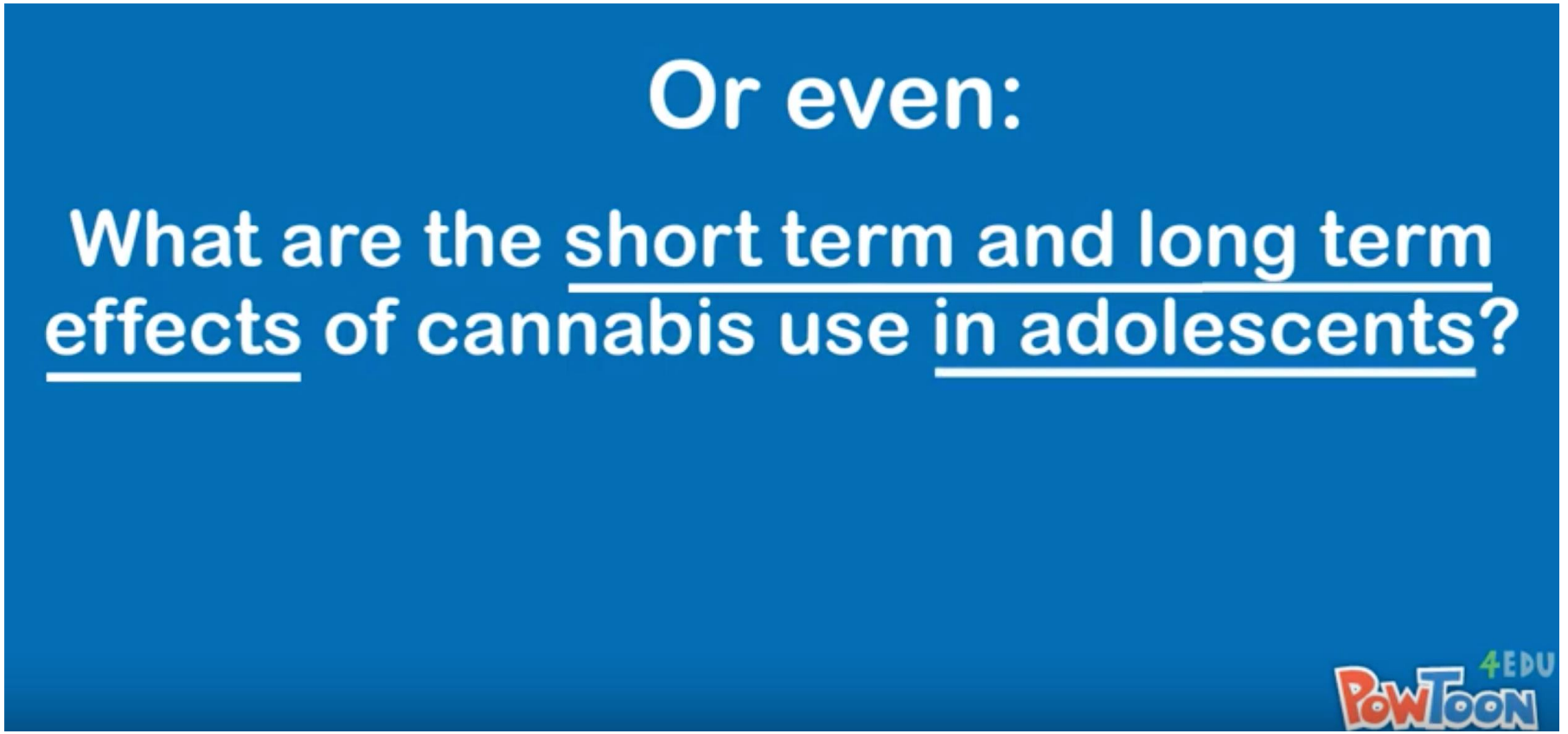
Or even:
What are the short term and long term effects of cannabis use in adolescents?
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Lastly, make the journey part of the reward.

"It's not the answer that gets you the Nobel Prize, it's the question."

Dr Karl Kruszelnicki

http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2016/02/16/4405574.htm

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