

Evaluating Research Questions

In this activity, you will interview another student in your class about his/her research question. Evaluate his or her question with regard to each of the following characteristics of good research questions that were presented in Chapter Two of the text.

1. The question is *feasible*. Write yes or no based on the following criteria :

Yes - if the question can be investigated without a considerable amount of time, energy, or money.

No - if, as stated, it would take a considerable amount of time, energy, or money to investigate this question.

Provide suggestions for improvement in the space below

2. The question is *clear*. Write yes or no based on the following criteria :

Yes - most people would agree as to what each of the key words in the question mean.

No - most people would not agree as to what each of the key words in the question mean.

Provide suggestions for improvement in the space below

3. The question is significant. Write yes or no based on the following criteria :

Yes - this question is worth investigating because it will contribute important knowledge about the human condition.

No - answers to this question would not contribute important knowledge about the human condition.

Provide suggestions for improvement in the space below

4. The question is ethical. Write yes or no based on the following criteria :

Yes - this question will not involve physical or psychological harm or damage to human beings, or to the natural or social environment.

No - the question could involve physical or psychological harm or damage to human beings, or to the natural or social environment

Provide suggestions for improvement in the space below

5. The question suggests a relationship. Write yes or no based on the following criteria :

Yes - this question does suggest a relationship of some sort.

No - the question does not suggest a relationship.

Provide suggestions for improvement in the space below

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