

STEPS TO DEVELOPING A RESEARCH QUESTION

1 SELECT A TOPIC

Choose a topic you are genuinely interested in.

2 RESEARCH TOPIC

Search journals and scholarly articles to see what has been done and to narrow your focus.

3 CONSIDER YOUR AUDIENCE

Important to tailor your future work to your specific audience.

4 FORMULATE YOUR QUESTION

Develop your question using PICO format:

- **Patient or problem:** Population demographics such as age, gender or ethnicity or problem type
- **Intervention:** Type of intervention being considered or studied
- **Comparison Intervention:** Comparison treatment to be considered
- **Outcome:** Desired effect you are hypothesizing to see

5 EVALUATE YOUR QUESTION

According to FINER criteria:

- **Feasibility:** Sufficient resources in terms of time, staff and funding
- **Interesting**
- **Novel:** Will yield new findings or extension of previous findings
- **Ethical:** Follows ethical guidelines and regulatory approval
- **Relevant:** Influence on future clinical practice

6 BEGIN YOUR RESEARCH

Think about possible paths your research could take.

