



# Constructing a Good Educational Research Question: A Quick Guide



## Purpose of an educational research question

- Sets your focus and direction
- Guides your literature review, methods, analysis and conclusions
- Enhances the relevance and impact of your research
- Makes your project achievable and valuable

## What makes a good research question?

 Feature	 What it means
Exploratory	Goes beyond yes/no answers
Focused	Specific and narrow in scope
Researchable	Can be investigated with literature and data
Do-able	Feasible with your time and resources
Relevant	Adds value to practice or knowledge
Critical	Encourages analysis, not just description



### Note:

- Discuss ideas with peers or mentors
- Allow time to revise and refine the research question

## The role of your research question at every stage



Literature review → helps you decide what to explore



Methods → informs what type of data you need to collect and how



Data analysis → keeps you focused so that you address the aim(s) of your research



Conclusions → grounds your discussion in the original research focus

## Tips for development

Start broad - explore ideas through reading and reflection



Ground in literature - identify what's already known and where are the gaps?



Narrow down - focus your aim: who, what, where?



Frame an open question - use 'How', 'What impact', 'To what extent' instead of 'Is' or 'Does'

## Example

Does peer assessment help Physics students?



Too closed

How does peer assessment influence students' understanding of the 'Mechanics and Relativity' module in the Year 1 Physics curriculum?



Open and specific