

FINER Criteria for Developing Research Questions	
Criterion	Strategies
Is the research question <i>feasible</i> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a pilot study to assess the feasibility • Use a less costly research design • Consider modifying inclusion criteria for study sample
Is it <i>impactful</i> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if it addresses an important burden or problem • Determine if it can have a positive impact on the research population
Is it <i>novel</i> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the literature to assess whether it addresses gaps • Seek guidance from experienced researchers
Is it <i>ethical</i> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarize yourself with research ethics guidelines (e.g., Belmont Report) • Obtain IRB approval prior to conducting research • Consider whether questions can cause undue burden
Is it <i>relevant</i> —to scientific knowledge, policy, or practice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarize yourself with the literature • Familiarize yourself with policy debates • Familiarize yourself with existing practices
Adapted from Hulley et al., 2007	

Hulley SB, Cummings SR, Browner WS, Grady DG, Newman TB. *Designing Clinical Research*. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2007.