Refining Research Questions

Helping students move closer to their target research goal
Today’s Objectives:

1. Learn the six components used to refine a research question
2. Refine research question
Write down what you consider to be your research question.

Use your problem statement knowledge and the BOK knowledge to be specific in your question.
Six Components:

1. Focused Topic: The specific aspect of a discipline that you wish to study
2. Purpose: The reason behind your interest in study
3. Context: Background or framework of research, the setting
4. Variables: The items that can change during research process
5. Valuable: Does it have worth in BOK?
6. Feasible: Can the research be completed?
These components are all recursive.

This means that you may move through five or six components, realize an error, and will then need to move back up to component one and start again.

#yougotthis
#effectiveresearcherinthehizouse
Focused Topic:

- Topic is very specific within a discipline.
- Could Include:
  - Demographics: Details of People
    - Age, Ethnic Group, Death, Family
  - Geographics: Specific locations
    - State, County, City, Region
  - Time Period
In one to two sentences, describe the focus of your topic.

List all the parts of your question that you feel are specific enough to research.
Purpose:

- The reason behind your interest in study
  - Could Include:
    - Change you wish to see
    - Issues within society
    - Personal connection to the topic
Purpose:

In one to two sentences, describe the purpose of your topic.

List all the parts of your question that you feel are specific enough to research.
Background or framework of research, the setting
○ Could Include:
■ Current philosophies of the discipline
■ Current discipline practices or methods
■ Present viewpoints of BOK
In one to two sentences, describe the context of your topic.

List all the parts of your question that you feel are specific enough to research.
Variables:

- The items that can change during research process
  - Could Include:
    - Items that you are attempting to change
    - Information that may be changed or manipulated due to research
    - People, animals, concepts that are changed due to your research
Variables:

In one to two sentences, describe the variables of your topic.

List all the parts of your question that you feel are specific enough to research.
Valuable:

- Does it have worth in BOK?
  - Could Include:
    - How you assume it will change the current ideas of the BOK
    - How it can enhance an idea/concept within the BOK
    - How you can “CHANGE the WORLD”...
      #Dundundundunnnn
Valuable:

In one to two sentences, describe the valuable of your topic.

List all the parts of your question that you feel are specific enough to research.
Feasible:

- Can the research be completed?
  - Could Include:
    - Amount of time needed
    - Amount of test subjects needed
    - Amount of money needed
    - Amount of assistance needed
    - CONSULTANT THAT IS NEEDED...
      #YOUMUSTMAKECONTACTSOONSOHELPME :)

Feasible:

In one to two sentences, describe the feasibility of your topic.

List all the parts of your question that you feel are specific enough to research.
Rewrite your question.

Use EVERY aspect of our discussion to formulate your question.

Be Specific and VERY Clear about your research intentions.