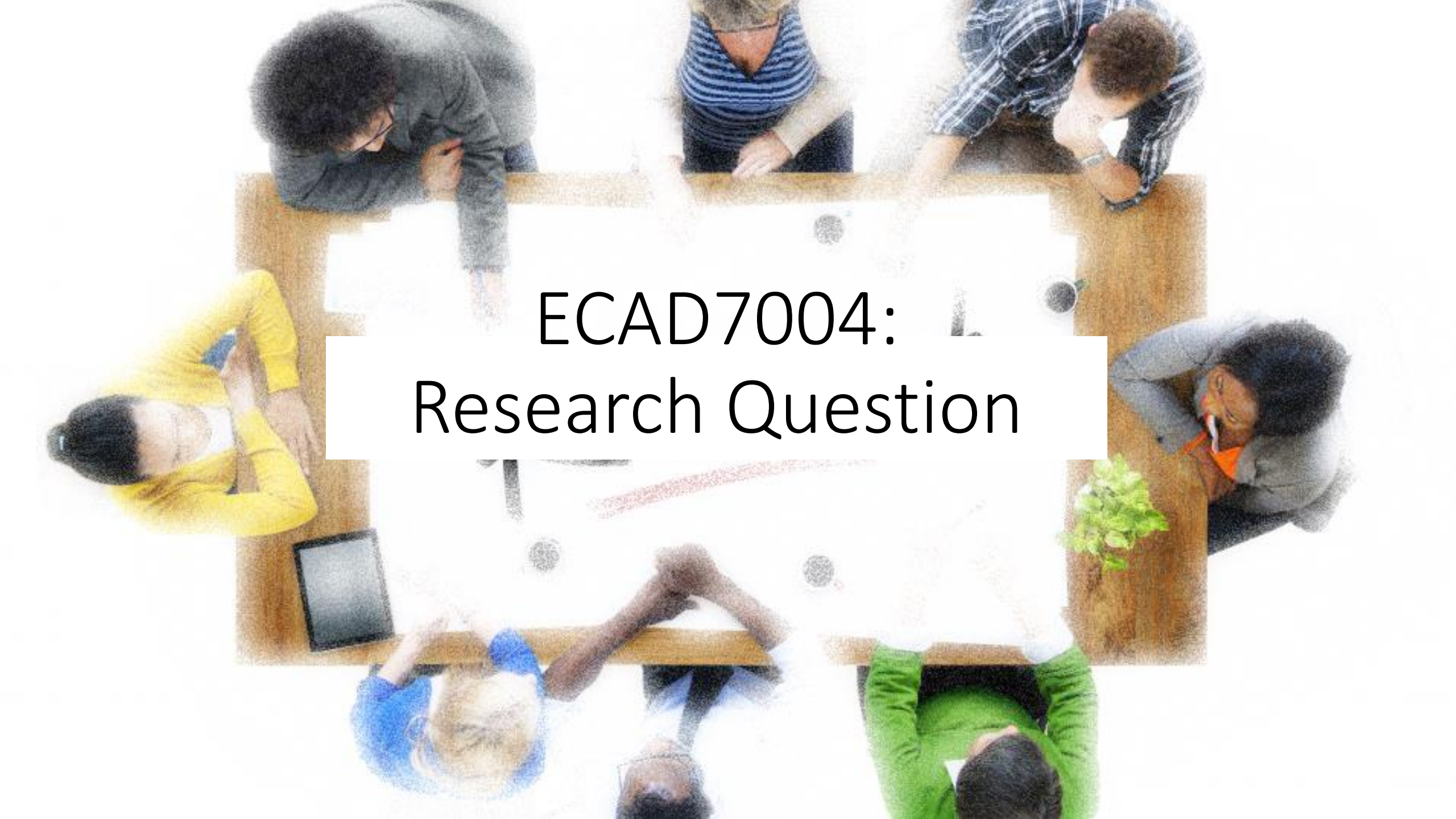
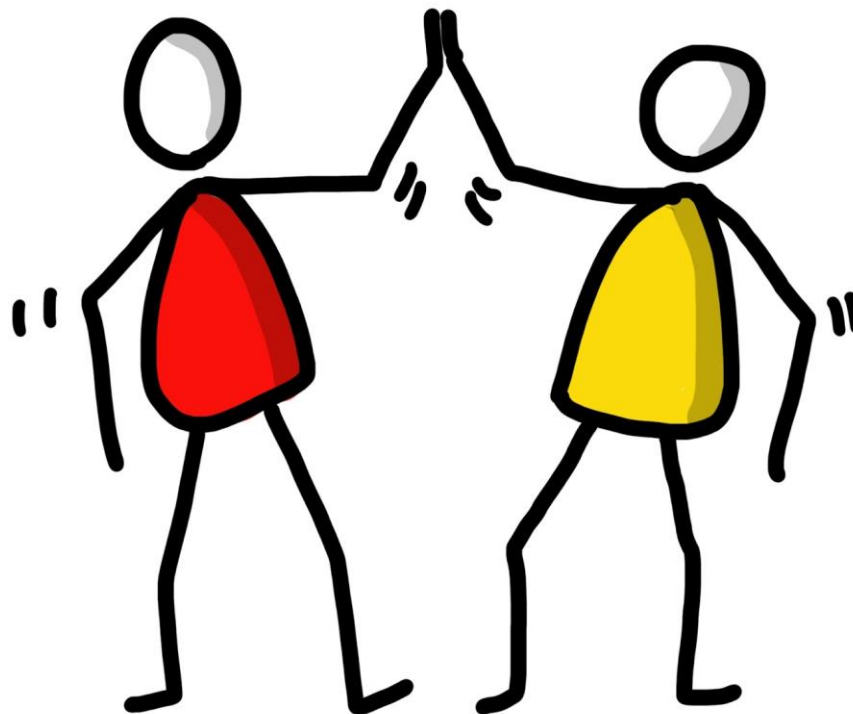




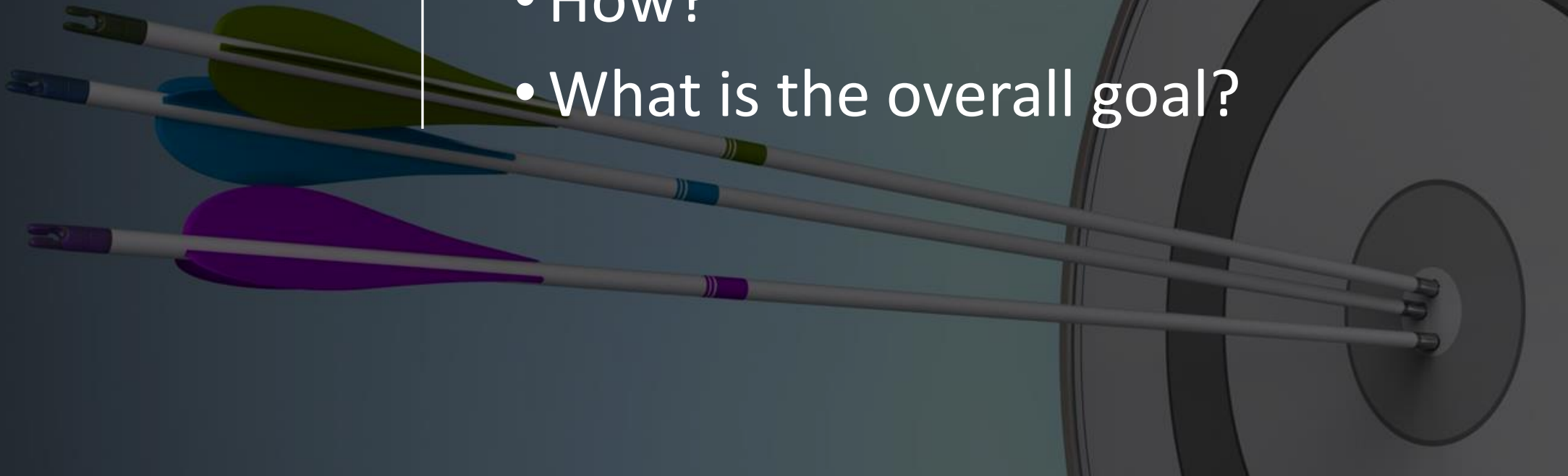
ECAD7004: Research Question

Find a
partner to
discuss your
research
focus



Write down

- Who?
- What?
- How?
- What is the overall goal?



Aims and Objectives



Aims: the overall driving force of the research – what is it that you want to find out?

Objectives: the means by which you intend to achieve the aim. How will you find this out?



Example:

The aim of this research project is to [verb: explore, identify, understand] the [understanding, perception] of [learners] on/about [topic].



Example:

The aim of this research project is to explore **the perceptions **of** Year 7 learners **on** the use of cold calling **in** Mathematics.**

Hypothesis?

Interpretative research, which seeks to develop knowledge through understanding meaning, does not usually proceed with hypotheses.

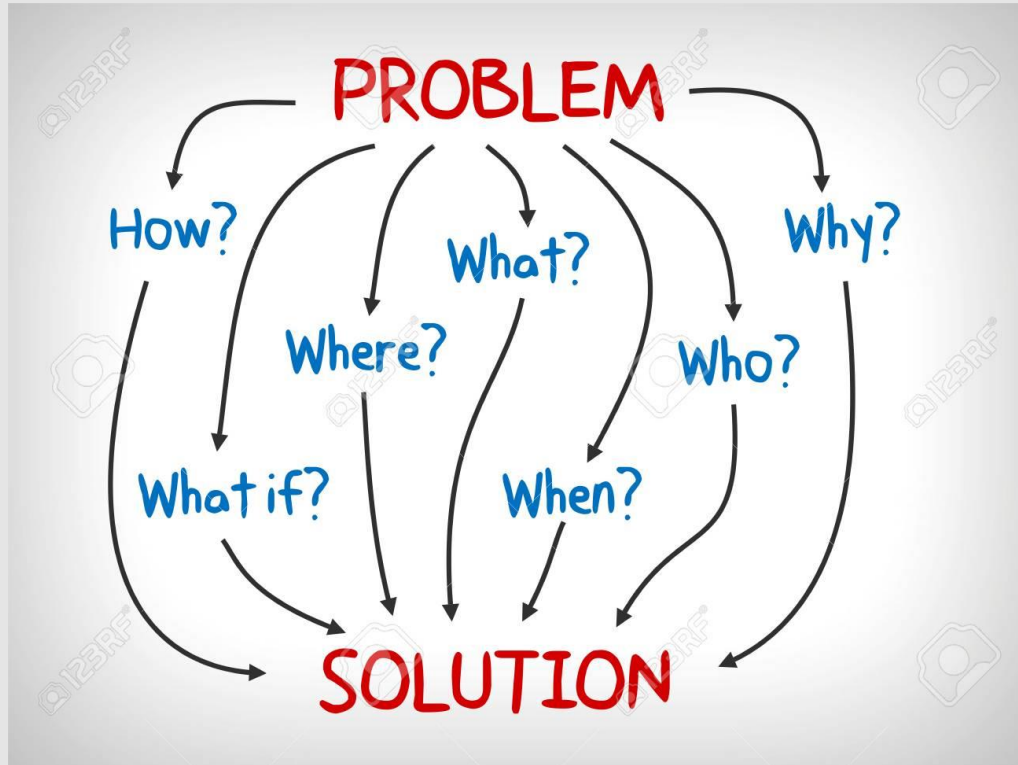


Deductive vs Inductive approaches:

In deductive research, a hypothesis is derived from existing theory and the empirical world is then explored, and data are collected, in order to test the hypothesis.

An inductive approach is where the researcher begins with as few preconceptions as possible, allowing theory to emerge from the data.

Acting upon findings:



Is there some change you could introduce to your pupils that would help you to help them improve their learning? (Henning, Stone and Kelly, 2009)

Aims and Objectives



Aims: the overall driving force of the research – what is it that you want to find out?

Objectives: the means by which you intend to achieve the aim. How will you find this out?

Ethics Form

Indicative title:			
Proposed start date:		Proposed end date:	
Introduction to the Research (maximum 300 words) Ensure that you write for a <u>Non-Specialist Audience</u> when outlining your response to the three points below: • <i>Purpose of Research Activity</i> • <i>Proposed Research Question</i> • <i>Aims of Research Activity</i> • <i>Objectives of Research Activity</i> Demonstrate, briefly, how <u>Existing Research</u> has informed the proposed activity and explain • <i>What the research activity will add to the body of knowledge</i> • <i>How it addresses an area of importance.</i>			
Purpose of Research Activity (this box should expand as you type)			
Research Question (this box should expand as you type)			
Aims of Research Activity (this box should expand as you type)			
Objectives of Research Activity (this box should expand as you type)			

RESEARCH QUESTION



What you will attempt to answer as a result of the actions and activities of your research?

It will guide your study and keep you focussed.

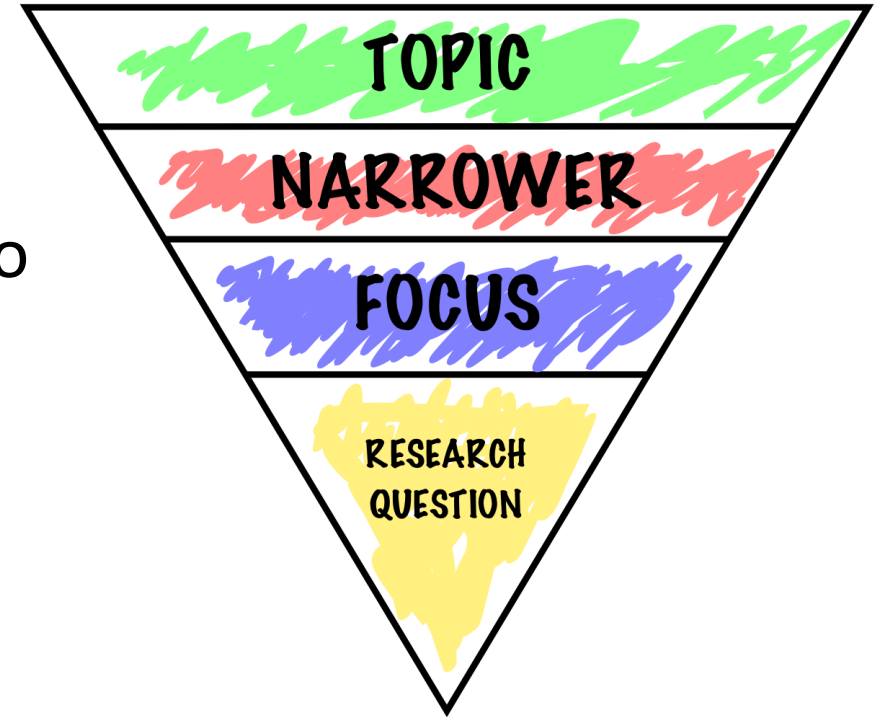


A good research question generally has the following features:

- It is written in the form of a question
- It is clearly written
- It cannot be answered with “yes” or “no”
- It has more than one plausible answer
- It considers relationships among multiple variables
- It is specific and clear about the concepts it addresses
- It includes a target population

Research Questions (RQs)

- RQs start from the premise that you are trying to improve your teaching in order to improve learner outcomes.
- RQs provide your focus and help develop your research practice.
- RQs often evolve through the research process.



Research Questions should be:



- **Clear** – it should be easy to understand
- **Specific** – convey exactly what you want to know
- **Original** – remember that you're researching something new that has not been done before
- **Achievable** – is it possible for you to answer this question?
- **Relevant** – to the literature you've read, your own setting, the purpose of your enquiry
- **Interesting** – Why do people need to know about this?

(Adapted from Lewin, 1948)

Task: Research Questions

In pairs or small groups, discuss the strengths and limitations of the following RQs:

- 1.What is the best way to teach counting in the Foundation Phase?
- 2.Why do learners with ALN find aspects of school difficult, and what could the school do about it?
- 3.How often does the average parent listen to their child read and what is the impact on progress?
- 4.How many school days are lost through pupils' unauthorised absence?

Creating your own RQ



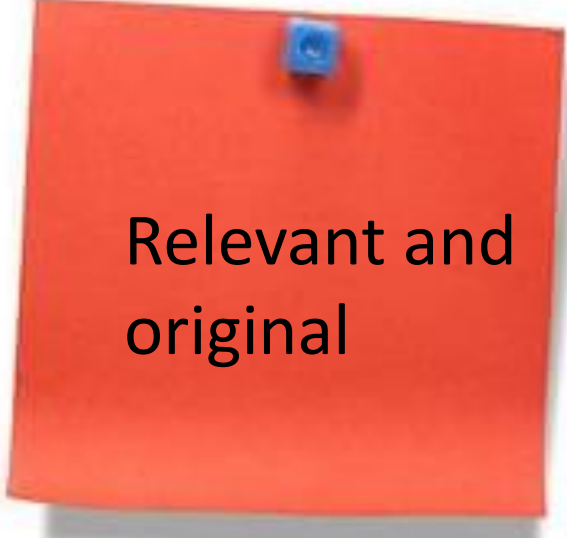
Focused and
researchable

- Focused on a single topic or problem
- Does not ask for a subjective value judgement



Feasible and
specific

- Answerable within practical constraints
- Uses specific, well-defined concepts



Relevant and
original

- Addresses a problem relevant to your practice/setting
- Contribute to a topical or academic debate



Have a go!

Ask yourself:



1. Does the question deal with a topic or issue that interests me enough to spark my own thoughts and opinions?
2. Is the question easily and fully researchable?
3. What type of information do I need to answer the research question?
Is the scope of this information reasonable (e.g., can I really research 30 online writing programs developed over a span of 10 years?)
4. Given the type and scope of the information that I need, is my question too broad, too narrow, or okay?
5. What sources will be able to provide the information I need to answer my research question (journals, books, Internet, government documents, people)?
6. Can I access these sources?
7. Given my answers to the above questions, do I have a good-quality research question that I actually will be able to answer by doing research?

Use your notes from Worksheet 1 to help you answer the following:

1. What is the purpose of your Research Project?
2. Why is it important for you to explore?
3. What will be the benefits – to you, your learners, the school?
4. Who does your research involve? Learner participants (numbers, year group/s, class/es)? Colleagues as participants?
5. What is your research question?
6. Begin to think about the literature you will need to inform your thinking?

Worksheet 1: Frame your research question

Outline your concerns or observations

I've noticed that . . .

I've always wondered why . . .

I'm concerned about ...

I wonder what would happen if . . .

It's funny how my students always . . .

Source: <http://cci.ust.hk/teaching-resources/action-research>

Assignment

Aim, focus and purpose of the research / Research Context	300
What was the purpose/aim of your research? What was the issue that you wanted to address in your research? Why were you interested in this? How does it link to your reflection in your PLP? BRIEFLY note the school context within which the research took place. (You need to give information only if it is relevant to the research question. For example, there is no need to give details of the percentage of pupils with ALN / FSM eligibility if this has no bearing on your research topic.) BRIEFLY note the context of the class within which your research took place. What was your research question?	

Ethics Form

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Proposed start date:		Proposed end date:	
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Aims of Research Activity (this box should expand as you type)			
Objectives of Research Activity (this box should expand as you type)			



Any questions?

References

Henning, J. E., Stone, J. M., & Kelly, J. L. (2009) Using Action Research to Improve Instruction: An Interactive Guide for Teachers. New York, NY: Routledge.

Lewin, K. (1948) Action research and minority problems. In G. W. Lewin (ed.), Resolving social conflicts. New York: Harper.