

ECAD4019 Astudiaethau Proffesiynol ac Addysgeg:

Ymchwilio i'r Dysgu: beth, sut a pham rydw i'n addysgu?

ECAD4019 Professional and Pedagogic Studies:

Researching the Learning: what, how and why am I teaching?

Session 5:

Becoming a skilled researcher – Research Questions and Research Tools

Yr Athrofa Research Dispositions

Being sceptical

- Understand **empirical evidence** in contested fields
- Being aware of political, economic and social drivers for 'evidence'

Being ethical

- Knowing and using ethical principles of research
- Understanding **positionality**

Being a skilled researcher

- Understanding **qualitative** and **quantitative** methods
- Be able to construct an argument based on evidence
- Employing **critical reading** skills

Being part of an inquiring profession

- Proactively contributing to a range of audiences
- Actively engaging with the inquiry and findings of others

Session Aim



- To develop your practice as a skilled researcher, able to make decisions about research design

Purposes of educational research

Purposes of educational research

- To find something out for its own sake
You may have an idea you want to follow up, based on your own curiosity
- To evaluate something
There may be a programme or innovation that has been introduced and you want to see what the impact has been
- To improve your own or others' practice
To look in detail at your own practice to see if it can be improved. It may involve introducing new ways of working, thinking and talking about events and incidents as they happen.

Research Questions

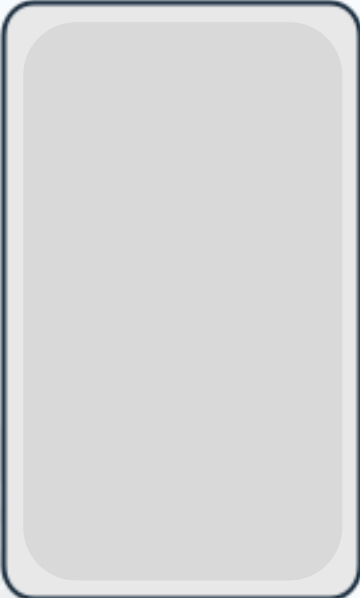
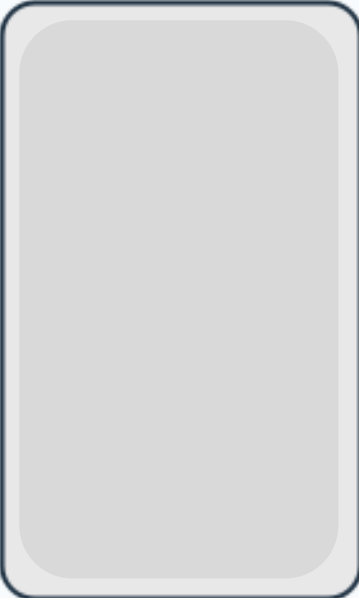
When you have thought about the focus of your research, you will need to shape your ideas into Research Question which will lie at the heart of your research.

Different kinds of questions will lead to different kinds of projects.



Evaluating Research Questions

PMI Chart Template

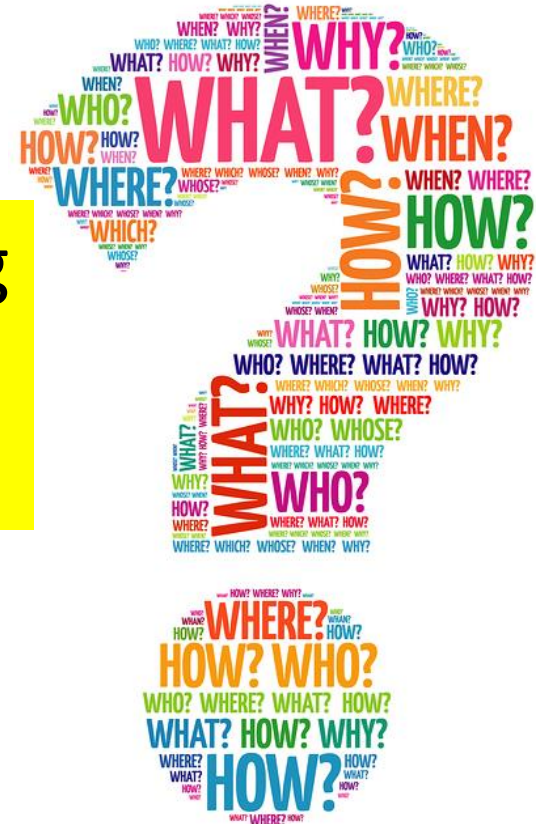
 PLUS	 MINUS	 INTERESTING
		

Quantitative Questions	Qualitative Questions	Mixed Methods
✓ Examine relationship between 2 or more variables ✓ Involves testing variables in order to reveal patterns, correlations or relationships ✓ Results in numerical data	✓ Explore an issue or situation ✓ Used to understand people's beliefs, experiences, attitudes, behaviour ✓ Generate non-numerical data	✓ Researchers collect and analyse both quantitative and qualitative data within the same study ✓ Can improve data evaluation by making sure that the limitations of one type of data are balanced by the strengths of another
• “How often does Child X show engagement with ...?” • “What is the difference between the outcomes of teacher assessments in Class A and Class B?” • “What is the relationship between X activity and pupils' involvement (Leuven Scale)?”	• “What is the best thing about X activity?” • “Can you describe how X experience made you feel?” • “What factors influence pupils' choice of activity?”	

Research Questions

Read the following question and decide what is wrong with it, if anything. Think about how you might address any problems you have identified.

1. What is wrong with the young people of today and what can we do about it?



Research Questions

Read the following question and decide what is wrong with it, if anything. Think about how you might address any problems you have identified.

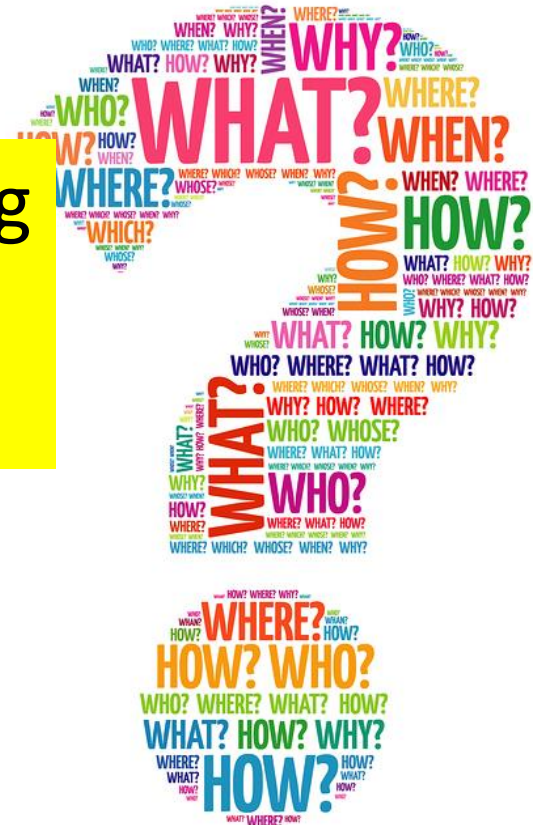
2. Do you think Foundation learners should use electronic devices?

Never ☐

Rarely ☐

Frequently ☐

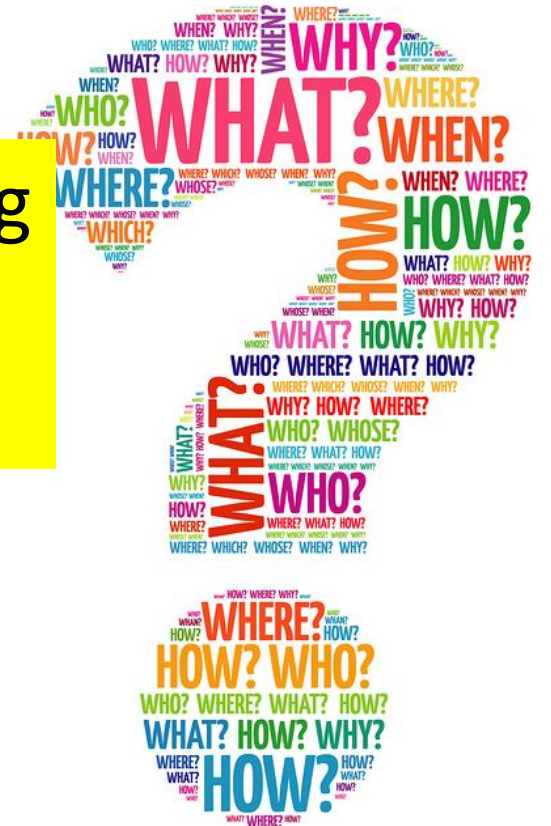
Sometimes ☐



Research Questions

Read the following question and decide what is wrong with it, if anything. Think about how you might address any problems you have identified.

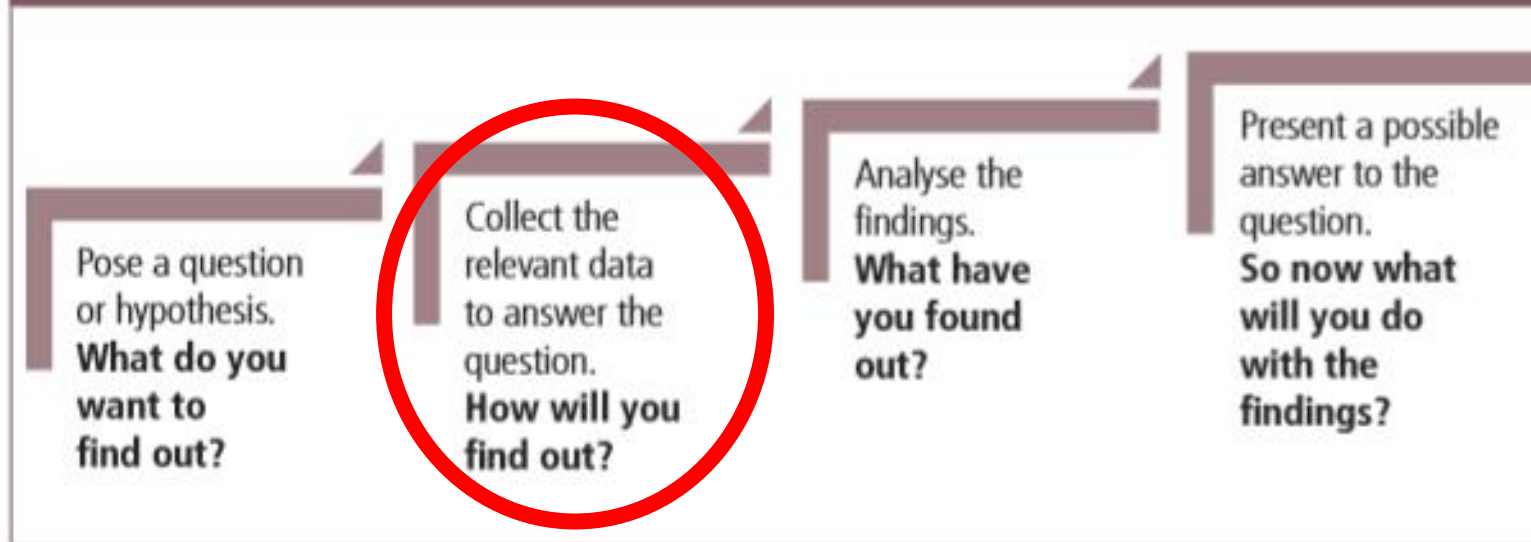
3. Why do you think children who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) underachieve in school?



Directed Task 5

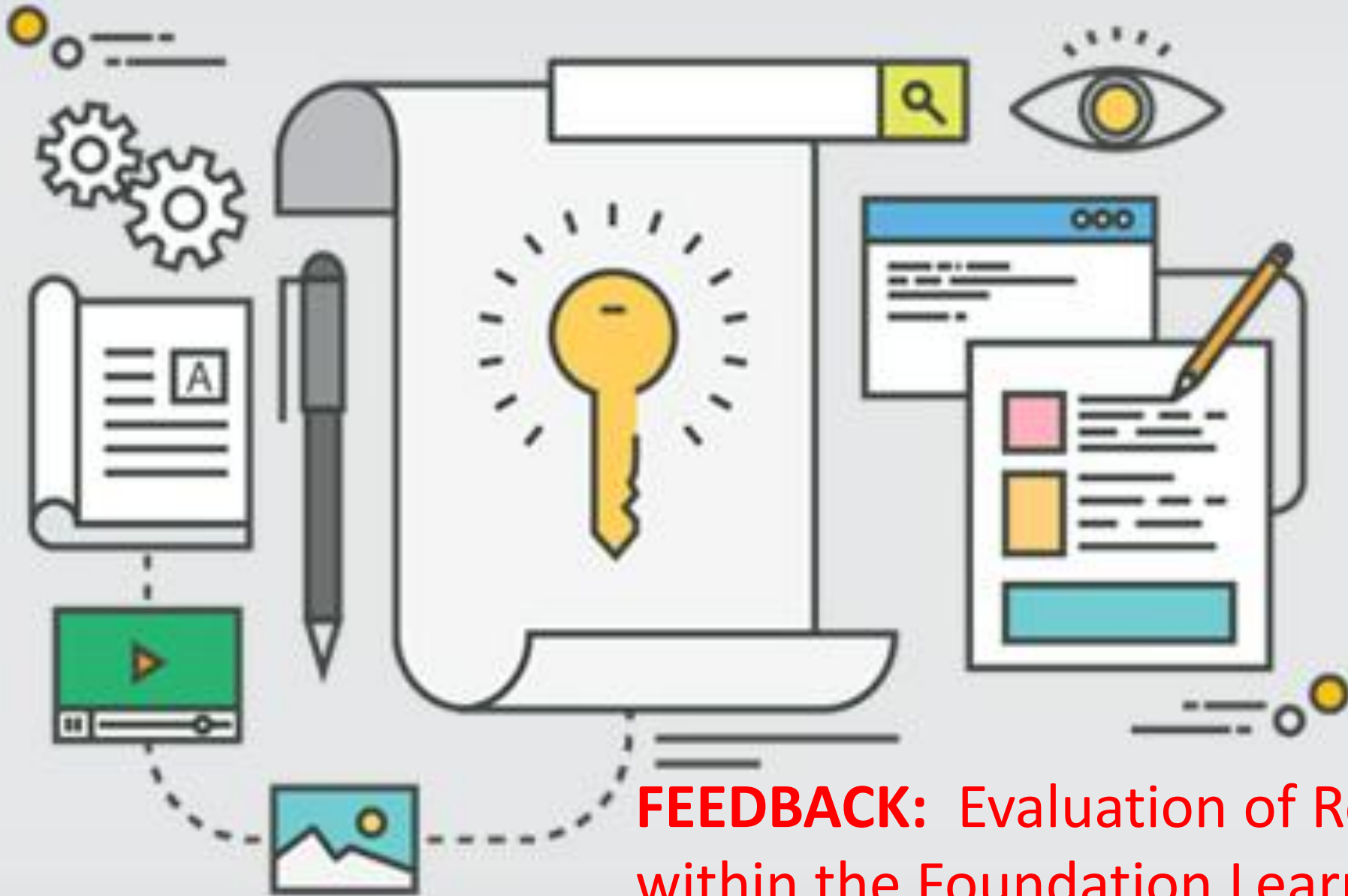


Figure 11: A simplified four-step research process



Source: Grigg (Wales Centre for Equity in Education, 2016)





FEEDBACK: Evaluation of Research Tools
within the Foundation Learning setting

FAQ



Note down any questions you might have about the module on Moodle. Your tutors will monitor this and answer.

