



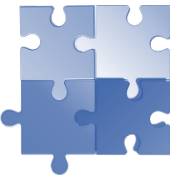


Once you decide on a research question for your new project, you need to check that it meets the FINER criteria, and revise it if needed. FINER is explained in the table below. A well-defined, useful, and timely research question should be answerable with the resources available and give meaningful results. After formulating a good research question, you should then develop a practical and realistic research protocol and obtain ethics approval.

If you have any questions or require research support, email us at: [global@edanz.com](mailto:global@edanz.com)

Criteria	Definition
<p><b>F</b> <small>feasible</small></p> 	<p>Your research project needs to be <b>practical and doable</b>. The research question has to be focused and not too broad. It should have an adequate sample and you should have the appropriate time, funding, technology, and staff expertise.</p>
<p><b>I</b> <small>nteresting</small></p> 	<p>The research has to <b>interest the researchers</b>, as well as others such as journal editors, readers, and other researchers.</p>
<p><b>N</b> <small>ovel</small></p> 	<p>The research should <b>find new knowledge</b> that builds on past research.</p>
<p><b>E</b> <small>thical</small></p> 	<p>The project should have <b>ethical approval</b> and be safe for humans, animals, and the environment. The benefits should outweigh the risks.</p>
<p><b>R</b> <small>elephant</small></p> 	<p>The research findings should link to <b>current societal needs</b> and be culturally acceptable.</p>

Based on: Hulley SB et al. *Designing Clinical Research 3rd Ed. 2007, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.*