

## DEVELOPING A RESEARCH TOPIC

"All competent research begins with a good research question."

- I. State your specific topic or problem for a research study on a broad issue. State the topic or problem in the form of a solid research question. Be sure to phrase your questions so that they specify a relationship between two or more variables. Questions should begin with "what, when, where, why, how, do, can, will," etc.

Examples:

Issue

- a. poverty and children

Research Question

Do children living in impoverished families miss school more frequently than do children living in middle-and upper-class families?

Issue

- b. gender and alcohol
- c. political party affiliation and social class
- d. law enforcement work and marital status
- e. college attendance and race/ethnicity
- f. drug addiction, parents and educational attainment
- g. senior citizens and sexuality

Research Question