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## **MPH Principles of Public Health: Question Formulation: Compiled Student Responses**

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# Formulating & Refining Answerable Research Questions

MPH Principles of Public Health Course  
September 5, 2013. 6:00-7:30pm. Med 2 Classroom

Print Name Legibly \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think that formulating answerable research questions will be important for attaining your MPH degree and for your career?

## **Student answers on Thursday September 5, 2013:**

As a public health student/ professional it is essential that you be able to formulate answerable research questions because your primary goal is to understand a public health problem and by formulating questions it allows for further understanding.

You must be able to formulate answerable research questions before you begin researching in order to have useful data.

Enhanced ability to choose interventions that will produce more positive outcomes.

Refine public health policy.

To better understand the direction of the public health field.

Formulating answerable research questions can help with discovering solutions to problems to better help patients heal.

To properly explore issues in society contributing to unhealthy behaviors.

To be able to solve problems.

To get deeper into a problem and find innovative solutions.

To have a place to start doing research.

You need to define your research/interventions.

Focus your work.

Give you a clear start and finish.

So you can hopefully get an answer to your question as opposed to just theory.

To focus your idea.

If they are answerable, then there must be data out there that one can use to address the question.

Without good questions as a foundation, you won't find good, usable data

You won't be able to focus your research.

Solving problems or providing options is key for improving outcomes.

It is important to have information available for various topics: if there isn't research out there how can one answer a question.

To know what you are researching and to stay focused.

To know exactly what you are trying to study.

Research accountability.

Consolidation of public health purpose as a tool of change.

Feasibility data.

Without a clear question you can't find a correct answer.

To find the nugget I am interested in.

Useful for finding accurate information related to the topic.

Creating a question that can be answered.

Apply the correct research methods/study design techniques.

So I can actually do the research—answer question and receive funding.

Publication (recognition) is another big desired thing in research.

If I don't go the research route, I'll need to find solutions to intervention for the communities I'm working for (being held responsible).

Finding previous research and work done in that area.

Making sure you don't repeat previous work.

Being able to explain your work to an audience and the study population.

It will give you a foundation to start your research.

Keeps you focused on the goal.

Structures your research.

It is essential for the master's and dissertation projects.

For my career: because a clear and answerable research question is the foundation for rigorous empirical investigation and good science.

It will assist in forming practical interventions.

It helps lay a foundation for research.

Answerable research questions are a useful tool for evaluation.

To determine if your topic is significant.

To determine an achievable outcome/goal/purpose.

To determine if there is enough information available/current on the topic.

Research will help with other courses, including the practicum.

To be able to create greater access for certain PH care.

To learn the latest technology and methods of care.

Allows you to generate appropriate methods for research and intervention.

To obtain circumscribed background and antecedent literature to avoid duplication of effort.

To create projects that will yield results.

[File: MPH Principles Session One Question Formulation 2013 Compiled Responses](#)

**Activity Two: your Notes from Segment on Question Formulation:**

Tips for Formulating Answerable Questions:

1.a

1.b

2.

3.

4. Purpose: a  
b  
c

**Activity Three:**

**Develop your beginnings of a research question into a refined, answerable research question:**

**Activity Four:**

**Reformulate your initial question in accordance with in-class instructions:**

Tip #5: