

Formulating a Research Question

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What Are We Trying To Accomplish?



Choose a research topic



Explain how to operationalize research constructs



Describe the different types of variables



Formulate the various types of hypothesis



Create a visualization of a research question

What topics keep my attention?

What blog or news feed am I likely to read?

What do I repeatedly search for on-line?

What topics peek my curiosity and inspire endless discussion?

Choosing A Research Topic

Deciding Between Fundamental or Applied Research

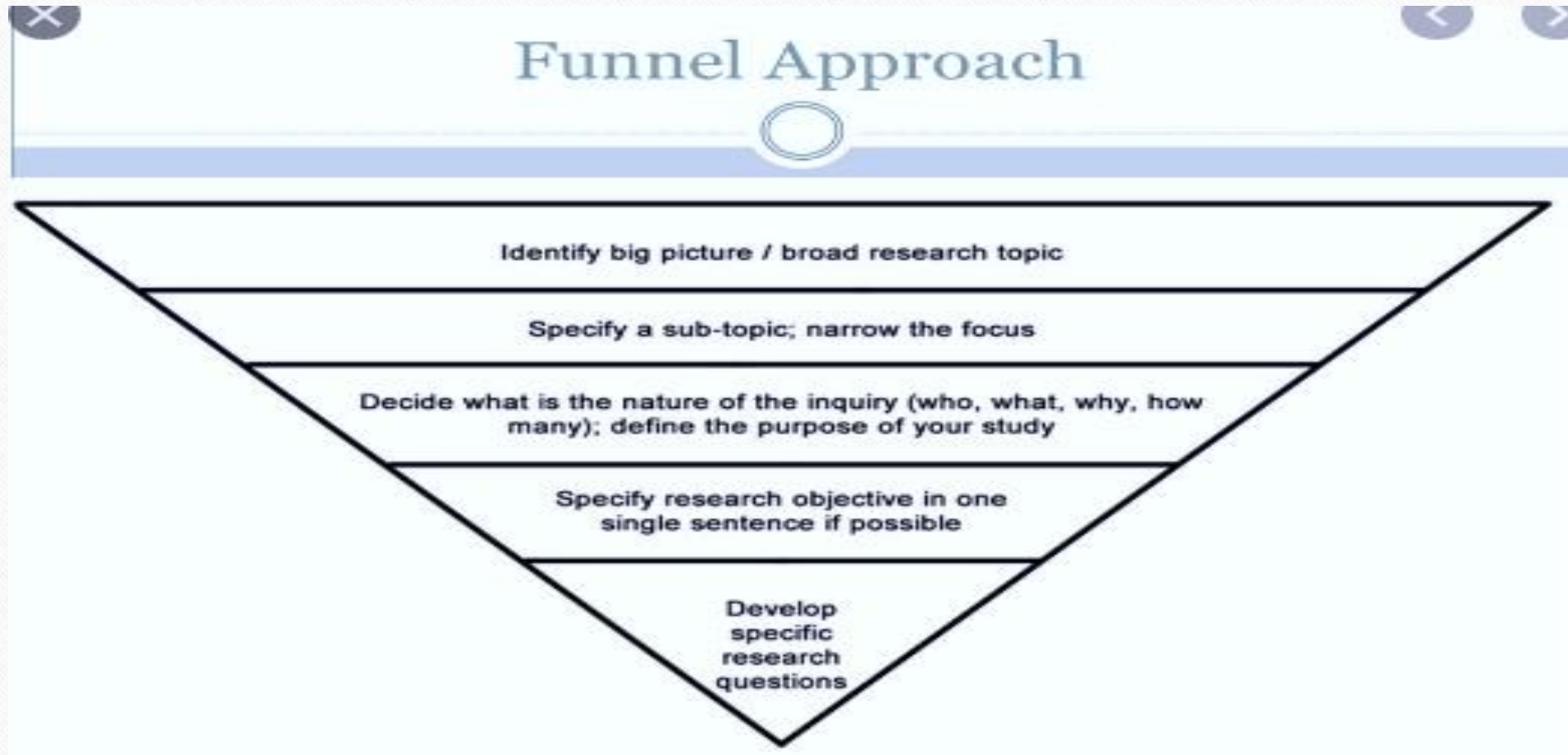
- **Fundamental Research** looks at the world at large and tries to generate new ideas or explanations about how the world works and why?
- This type of research aims at collecting information about a large group of people.
 - Another example of fundamental research is theories of migration.
 - People move from one country to another in search for a better life
 - Why? Political? Economic? Personal? Social Status?
 - Researchers do not intervene in their subjects daily lives or bring change that concerns them. They aim to gain a deeper understanding of the human condition.

Applied Research

- **Applied Research:** seeks to solve a specific societal problem or uncover more information about a particular issue
- Why do people behave the way they behave?
- Example: ADHD
- Traditional Classrooms vs. Very Active Classroom

- Studies like this are used to test forms of interventions or training to evaluate their effectiveness in practice.

Narrowing the Research Topic



Organization Of Constructs

Once a research process has emerged...its time to put it into the form of a question!

Formulating a research question means a well-thought-out question that includes:

- What is your study all about?
- What population are you interested in studying?
- The location of where this study is being conducted?
- The idea is to be specific as possible so most people would understand immediately what the study/research is all about.

Next Steps...

- The next step in finding more about your topic of interests is finding good sources describing studies of similar interest.
- The following are a list of good sources but keep in mind that although the sources are a good beginning, they are not scientific for finding literature.
- Technology Entertainment and Design (TED)
- National Public Radio (NPR)
- Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)
- New York Time
- The “Web”

Now What?

- The next step in going deeper into your own research will require digging into scientific literature and getting your hands on articles about research that has already been conducted.
- So,
- 1) Creating an idea on what your topic will be about from non-scientific sources is STEP1
- 2) Once you have a clear idea....look for scientific articles.
- The process will be much easier than delving into scientific studies without a clear research focus.

Sample Research Questions

- 1) Should we raise taxes on fast food to curb obesity in the US?
- 2) How can the government help lower teen and young adult exposure to HPV?
- 3) Are energy drinks harmful if consumed on a regular basis?
- 4) Could any environmental factors have made my hometown a “Hot Spot” for increased cancer risk?
- 5) How should wolf populations be regulated in the state of Idaho?
- 6) Are dams in prime salmon habitat worth the benefit of irrigation and hydroelectricity?

Thank You For Your Attention!

- *Questions and
Comments*