

Handout 3: Researchable Questions

What is a researchable question?

- **Reasonable:** Is the research question realistic and achievable? Will conducting the research have an impact on your overarching goal? Are you attempting too much or too little?
- **Appropriate:** Is the question important, relevant, and aligned with your goal(s)? Is it well grounded in current theory and knowledge?
- **Answerable:** Can the question be answered within your proposed timeframe and with the available resources and support?
- **Measurable:** Is the question founded on a clear hypothesis and operational definitions? Can you quantify your objectives—evaluate according to standards? What do you expect in terms of change from baseline?

How do you develop researchable questions?

By seeking out information or input in the form of:

- Questions, concerns, and values of stakeholders/community.
- Important issues raised in the field or literature.
- Professional standards or guidelines.
- Views and knowledge of experts.
- One's own views and judgment.