**‘Writing an Effective Research Question’ Activity Worksheet**

Reference for the Chapter to go here

**Part 1: Instructor’s Example**

1. **Activity Objectives**

(Remove this text: May be pre-populated by instructor if time is limited for this activity or students complete from instructor’s slide)

1. **Purposes of a Research Question**

(Remove this text: students complete from working in pairs and class feedback

1. **Student’s Self-Selected Topic**

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1. **Indicate what interests you about your self-selected topic.**

*This helps you to identify sub-topics that you might like to investigate for your research and from which you will develop your research question.*

1. **Instructor’s Topic Example** (remove this text – may be pre-populated by instructor)

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**Instructor’s possible sub-topics** (circle which sub-topic the instructor chooses to investigate in this activity). (remove this text – may be pre-populated by instructor)

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1. **Effective and poor research question examples.** Write the two research question examples provided by the instructor (remove this text – may be pre-populated by instructor). Strike through the poorly worded question.
2. **Characteristics of an Effective Research Question**
3. **Keyword Identification:** Copy the instructor’s good question and circle the keywords as shown by the instructor.   
    *Keywords are used to search the library databases for relevant documents*.
4. **Alternative search words and truncations**. Identify alternative words and possible truncations for the good question example.

*Alternative words are similar words that may be useful using in database searches if the initial search is not productive.*

*Truncations are used for root words that have multiple word endings and spellings***.**

1. **General Notes**

Write notes here, particularly helpful hints about the database search.

1. **Refined Question:** Write the instructor’s refined question**.**

**Part 2: MY OWN INVESTIGATION**

(Remove text: this is completed by the student and ideally in the second workshop / lecture with staff and tutor support.)

**My topic (as above, see page 2 of worksheet)**

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**My interest in my topic** – indicates possible sub-topics **(as above, see page 2 of worksheet)**

**My Initial Question** (circle keywords)

Please circle the following to indicate if it meets the characteristics of a good research question. Revisit all these points again after your database search.

*Is it too narrow or to broad* - Narrow: Yes / No Broad: Yes / No

*Is it too easy or to hard* - Easy: Yes / No Hard: Yes / No

*Is an open question (e.g. what, why or how)* - Yes / No

*Does it lead to analytical rather than descriptive investigations* – Yes / No

*Is it likely to generate results from the database search* - Yes / No

*Is it clear, concise and not vague (avoid multiple questions in one question)* – Yes / No

**Alternative words and truncations**

**All combinations of search words used (to re-visit later)**

**Refinements to my question**