Methods

Fall 2019

# Thinking About a Research Question:

# DUE Thursday, September 12th, 2019 in Class: 10 points

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We want to develop research projects that are *feasible*. Take time to muse about a sociological question that interests you. Could it be the focus of a research project? Answer the questions below to help determine whether it is a *feasible* research project. Please type the question first and then answer each question individually using complete sentences.

1. What topic are you interested in understanding or investigating?
2. What are your own observations and ideas about your topic?
3. Have you ever read anything on this topic? If so, what information did you learn?
4. What are the major concepts you will be looking at or investigating?
5. If you are considering collecting original data, could you design questions that would help you uncover information about the concepts you want to investigate? What might some of those questions be? Or, if you are considering using secondary data, what source of data interests you that could help you answer your research question?
6. What group or groups will your research focus on?
7. Will you have a comparison group or groups (men and women; younger and older; better off and less well off; white and black and ….) ? If so, who?
8. Have you any ideas about possible conclusions your research may uncover? If so, what are they?

Why is this of sociological importance? Let’s say that you found support for what you now think may be your conclusions. What difference does it make to know this? What implications does it have for our society or our university?

Are these sociological concepts? Are they psychological concepts? Remember to focus your projects on issues of sociological importance.