**Research Design Activity: Researchable Question**

*Suggestion: Use a copy of this Word doc for your assignment. Leave everything that is boldfaced and delete everything that is italicized before you submit this doc to the assignment tool in eLC.*

**Participant’s Name:**

*A research project begins with a problem or feeling of curiosity. After some initial reading for background, the next step is to compose a researchable question. It can be a major challenge to write a question that is truly "researchable." Do your best to make your question specific and answerable. The question serves as the focus for any research project. The research question itself is actually a component of a short section of a research proposal called the "Statement of the Problem" which succinctly provides the background and context of the problem and culminates with a researchable question.*

*Components of a Statement of the Problem Containing a Researchable Question*

* *An opening explicit statement (one sentence, if possible) describing the research topic: My study is about...*
* *Justification: Within the space of a paragraph, explain why you perceive this to be a problem worthy of research for a lay audience (i.e. a principal, parent, company executive officer, or some other interested, educated person who knows nothing about our field)*
* *Context: Provide a brief explanation (1 or 2 sentences) of where this problem is situated - corporate board room, classroom, company delivery van, etc.*
* *Research Participants: Give a brief description of the type of people who would participate in the research*
* *Research Question: it should be one sentence, and it should be stated as a question*

**Components**

**1. One-Sentence Description of your Research Project**

*Sentence starter: My study is about...*

**2. Justification for this Topic**

*Why do you perceive this to be a problem worthy of research? Justify your study in language that a lay audience can understand. Imagine this person in your mind as your write this, such as a CEO, principal, state legislator, parent, or some other interested, educated person who knows nothing about our field.*

**3. Description of the Research Participants**

*Give a brief description of the type of people who would participate in the research. Again, the purpose is to help other people tell at a glance who the research is about. Typical examples: Older Adults, Corporate Executives, Young Adults, High School Students, Elementary School Students, Pre-School Students.*

4. **Description of the Research Context or Setting**

*Where would this research project take place? In a school? At a company's headquarters? At the local YMCA? Also describe the specifics of the setting. Would the research take place in a classroom, at the cashier section of a retail store, in the programmer's suite at a multimedia development company, or at the YMCA's pool?*

**5. What is the Research Problem or Question Being Researched?**

*State briefly the nature of the research. This can be stated in the form of a research problem or as a research question (most people find writing it as a question as most helpful). Try to be as specific as possible, that is, avoid questions like "Does technology influence learning?" Research statements or questions that are too general are pretty much meaningless.*

*Examples:*

* *What is the relationship between motivation and learning in an educational video game?*
* *Does competition within an educational video game motivate students to invest more time and effort in the game?*