

# Developing a Scholarly Project

## FIRST STEP: GENERATING A RESEARCH QUESTION

1. Identify a research topic/theme. What baffles you? What are you curious about related to your educational passion or field? What problems need to be solved? What assumptions need to be challenged?
2. Individually identify several specific questions related to your own theme. Be sure to write them in the form of a question.
3. Identify the most “narrow” and “specific” question from above. Write your question, getting even more specific and reducing your question to an even smaller unit. Be as precise as possible.
4. Share your question with a colleague and get feedback. Does your question meet the **FINER**<sup>1</sup> criteria (Feasible, Interesting, Novel, Ethical, and Relevant)? Is it important? Does the answer already exist? If not, refine your question.

1. Cummings SR, Browner WS, Hulley SB. Conceiving the research question. In: Hulley SB, Cummings SR (eds). Designing Clinical Research. Baltimore MD: Williams and Wilkins, 1998.