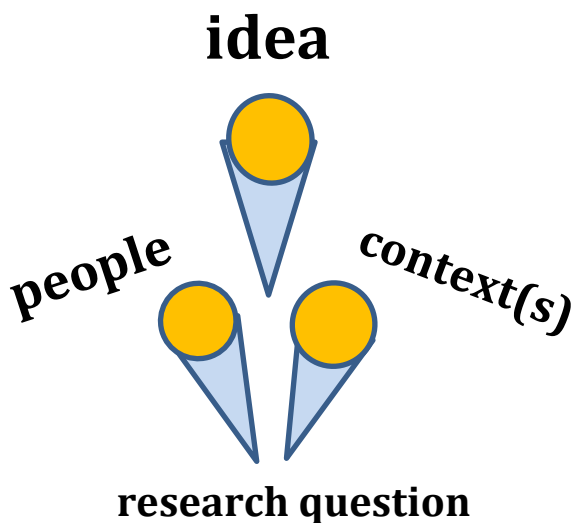


# Formulating a Research Question

Consider the major concepts or issues within your discipline, then make a list of the ones that interest you. For instance, if you are a student in the Education Department, you might choose *learning styles*, *student engagement*, or *technology in the classroom*.

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To conduct research, you'll need to gather data, so try situating each **idea** within a specific group of **people** in a specific **context**. This might help you fine-tune exactly what you're looking for.



*Some examples:*

- How do the **learning styles** of **transfer students** differ in an **Academic Writing class**?
- What role does **technology** play for **English Language Learners** in **public high schools**?
- How does **X idea** function for a **Y population** in a **Z setting**?

Take each idea that you brainstormed, apply it to the funnels, and list some potential research questions that you could explore:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Once you have a question that you want to explore, begin thinking about which **sources** can help you gather supporting research. Identify the **professional journals** in your field, and then think of which **key terms** you can use to narrow your search for relevant articles. Use your **university library databases** (i.e., EBSCO HOST, Eric) to gain access to these journals.