

Statement of Research (or Problem Statement) Assignment

For this assignment, you are going to be writing a problem statement / statement of research intent. Remember this is just a projection of a potential research problem you may be interested in at this time. You won't be conducting the research at this time but you are laying the foundation.

A problem statement is basically a statement that illustrates a clear vision of an interesting issue or problem you've identified of and the overall method that will be used to solve or address that problem. Usually used when doing research, a problem statement discusses any foreseeable tangible or intangible problems a researcher may encounter throughout the research process as well as explanations of what you, as the researcher would do to address those problems.

For your problem statements/statement of research, consider the possible topics below:

- Problems related to the 'patient experience' or Ways to improve the patient experience
- Caregiver challenges and social support needs\
- Should there be communication training for healthcare practitioners (physicians, nurses, assistants, aids, ancillary workers etc.) Why or why not? Practitioners include nurses, therapists, dentists, pharmacists, clinicians, physicians, technicians, and paramedics. What are the challenges that might impede patient/practitioner communication?
- What is health literacy? Why does it matter?
- Socio-cultural factors in health-communication
- Mental Health and illness
- Ethical issues in health communication
- New technologies in health communication
- Media effects and health
- E-Health, the Internet and Dr. Google
- Risks and Crisis communication
- Successful/unsuccessful public health campaigns
- Health communication related to _____ (insert illness or problem here; for example: health communication related to diabetes prevention).

Your statement of research should address the following areas:

- The context/background – introduction of topic
- What questions (2-3) do you want your research to address?

- How will you answer them or how will you seek to do your research? (Please don't tell me you're going to look through databases – this question asks exactly what it says – what are you going to DO – i.e. surveys, interviews, observations etc. Go back to week 1 when you were learning about methods if need be).
- Who does your research affect/involve?
- Where would your research occur?
- What problems might arise? What will you do?
- What ethical considerations are associated with your topic?
- What do you hope your research will accomplish? What does your research add to the conversation?

Each of the answers to the questions above will help you write your statement of research/problem statement. This is a plan to conduct research document – not yet a proposal but the beginnings of one.