Research Question Checklist

Use this checklist before finalizing your research question. It ensures your question is clear, focused, relevant, and researchable — ideal for systematic or literature reviews.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Yes | No | Notes |
| Clearly Defined Topic: Does your question focus on a specific condition, population, or intervention? | ☐ | ☐ |  |
| Relevance to Current Medical Literature: Is the question important in clinical or public health practice? | ☐ | ☐ |  |
| PICO/PECO Components Identified: Have you defined all elements (Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome)? | ☐ | ☐ |  |
| Answerable With Existing Evidence: Can the question be answered through published studies or data? | ☐ | ☐ |  |
| Not Too Broad or Too Narrow: Is the scope of your question manageable for a systematic or literature review? | ☐ | ☐ |  |
| Free From Ambiguity: Is the language of your question specific and clear? | ☐ | ☐ |  |
| Feasible in Terms of Time & Resources: Can this question be researched with the resources available to you? | ☐ | ☐ |  |
| Aligned With Study Type: Is the question appropriate for a review study (systematic/literature)? | ☐ | ☐ |  |
| Free of Bias or Assumptions: Is your question neutral and evidence-seeking, not leading or assumptive? | ☐ | ☐ |  |
| Search Strategy Can Be Built From It: Can you derive effective search terms/strategies from this question? | ☐ | ☐ |  |

## Evaluation Guidance:

🟢 If You Checked YES to 8 or More Items:  
✅ Your research question is likely strong and ready for development into a systematic or literature review.

🟡 If You Checked YES to 5–7 Items:  
⚠️ Refine your question for clarity, relevance, or feasibility before moving ahead.

🔴 If You Checked YES to 4 or Fewer Items:  
❌ Revisit your topic. Consider using frameworks like PICO or consulting a mentor for guidance.