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Characteristics of a Good Research Question

The characteristics of a good research question, assessed in the context of the intended study design, are that it be feasible, interesting, novel, ethical, and relevant (which form the mnemonic **FINER**; Table 2.1).

Table 2.1 FINER Criteria for a Good Research Question

Feasible

- Adequate number of subjects
- Adequate technical expertise
- Affordable in time and money
- Manageable in scope

Interesting

- Getting the answer intrigues the investigator and her friends

Novel

- Confirms, refutes or extends previous findings
- Provides new findings

Ethical

- Amenable to a study that institutional review board will approve

Relevant

- To scientific knowledge
- To clinical and health policy
- To future research

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