CHECKLIST
EVALUATING THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

____ 1. Write a clear statement of a problem for research.

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____ 2. Review your written statement and ask yourself the following questions:
   • Is the problem stated in a complete, grammatical sentence?
   • Is it clear how the area of study will be limited or focused?

____ 3. On the basis of your answers to the questions in #2, edit your written statement.

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____ 4. Look at your edited statement and reflect on the following questions:
   • Does the answer to this problem have the potential for providing important and useful answers and information?
   • Will the result be more than a simple exercise in gathering information, answering a yes/no question, or making a simple comparison?
   • Is the problem focused enough to be accomplished with a reasonable expenditure of time, money, and effort?

____ 5. Looking at the statement once more, consider this: Is the problem really what I want to investigate?

____ 6. Show other research students your work. Ask them to consider the questions listed in items 2 and 4 and then to give you their comments. With your compiled feedback, edit and rewrite your problem statement once again:

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