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## What is statement of the problem in qualitative research

### Explain statement of the problem in research. How do you write a problem statement in qualitative research.

This content belongs to the Conducting Research Stage A problem statement is a concise and concrete summary of the research problem you seek to address. It should: Contextualize the problem. What do we already know? Describe the exact issue your research will address. What do we still need to know? Show the relevance of the problem. Why do we need to know more about this? Set the objectives of the research. What will you do to find out more? When should you write a problem statement? There are various situations in which you might have to write a problem statement. In the business world, writing a problem statement is often the first step in kicking off an improvement project. In this case, the problem statement is usually a stand-alone document. In academic research, writing a problem statement can help you contextualize and understand the significance of your research problem. It is often several paragraphs long, and serves as the basis for your research proposal. Alternatively, it can be condensed into just a few sentences in your introduction. A problem statement looks different depending on whether you're dealing with a practical, real-world problem or a theoretical issue. Regardless, all problem statements follow a similar process. Step 1: Contextualize the problem The problem statement should frame your research problem, giving some background on what is already known. Practical research problems For practical research, focus on the concrete details of the situation: Where and when does the problem arise? Who does the problem affect? What attempts have been made to solve the problem? ExampleVoter turnout in the Southeast has been decreasing steadily over the past ten years, in contrast to other areas of the country. According to surveys conducted by local nonprofits, turnout is lowest among those under 25 years of age. There have been some effective attempts at engaging these groups in other regions, and in the last two elections, major parties increased their campaigning efforts. However, these interventions have yet to have any significant effect on turnout. Theoretical research problems For theoretical research, think about the scientific, social, geographical and/or historical background: What is already known about the problem? Is the problem limited to a certain time period or geographical area? How has the problem been defined and debated in the scholarly literature? ExampleIn the past ten years, the “gig economy” has become an increasingly important segment of the labor market. People under 30 are now more likely to engage in freelance arrangements (rather than full-time jobs) than in the past. Research on the reasons for and consequences of this shift has focused on objective measures of income, working hours, and employment conditions. However, there has been little work exploring young people’s subjective experiences of the gig economy. Professional editors proofread and edit your paper by focusing on: Academic style Vague sentences Grammar Style consistency See an example Step 2: Show why it matters The problem statement should also address the relevance of the research. Why is it important that the problem is addressed? Don’t worry, this doesn’t mean you have to do something groundbreaking or world-changing. It’s more important that the problem is researchable, feasible, and clearly addresses a relevant issue in your field. Practical research problems Practical research is directly relevant to a specific problem that affects an organization, institution, social group, or society more broadly. To make it clear why your research problem matters, you can ask yourself: What will happen if the problem is not solved?

Problems can be researched in a variety of different ways depending upon your interests and the sample populations available to you: The problem statement reflects the design and the problem

- Qualitative Problem Statements**
- It is not known what supporting positive and negative organizational factors and experiences have enabled a current female executive to become the CEO in a Fortune 100 company. (qualitative historical study)
  - It is not known how a group of successful executives feel their 2-year global assignment influenced their ability to manage their own emotions in their leadership role and the emotions of their followers in the workplace. (qualitative phenomenological study)
  - It is not known how and why the organizational culture influenced the values, beliefs, and behaviors of a group of 5 successful global executives during their 3-year global assignment. (qualitative ethnographic study)
  - It is not known how to increase the level of emotional intelligence in leaders in an organization? (action research)

Who will feel the consequences? Does the problem have wider relevance? Are similar issues found in other contexts? ExampleLow voter turnout has been shown to have negative associations with overall civic engagement. It is becoming an area of increasing concern in many European democracies. When specific groups of citizens lack political representation, they are likely to become more excluded over time, leading to an erosion of trust in democratic institutions. Addressing this problem will have practical benefits for the Southeastern US as well, and will contribute to understanding of this widespread phenomenon. Theoretical research problems Sometimes theoretical issues have clear practical consequences, but sometimes their relevance is less immediately obvious. To identify why the problem matters, ask: How will resolving the problem advance understanding of the topic? What benefits will it have for future research? Does the problem have direct or indirect consequences for society?

Article composed by an intern at [quintessencepaper.com](#)

**Research Paper Problem Statement: Why Is It So Effective?**

It is very important to make the Research paper problem statement as interesting as possible. Only when the problem statement of an academic writing work is chosen in an effective manner, reasons will be suggested to suggest to choose effective themes or theories for an academic assignment.

In order to write a Research paper problem statement powerfully, students must be aware of certain tips and suggestions. Students can get help from free sample essays written by expert custom essay writers. If students choose an interesting theme, they will be excited to write their research paper. After choosing the theme, students must ensure to write their research papers as per rules in an inspiring manner.

**Research paper problem statement: Useful points**

Page, topic and facts regarding Research paper problem statement are as follows:

- Make sure to choose an interesting and not problem statement for research papers.
- Make sure that the problem statement of the paper is clear, expressive and effective.
- Ensure to choose a problem statement that is related to a current issue in order to get more attention.

**Research paper problem statement: Tips to consider**

Research paper problem statement can become powerful if students consider the following guidelines:

- Make sure to choose an interesting and not problem statement for research papers.
- Make sure to write a strong problem statement for research paper.
- Make sure to choose a problem statement that can be written with incredible facts and history.
- Make sure to choose a problem statement that is easy for research.

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ExampleLiterature on the gig economy characterizes these new forms of employment sometimes as a flexible, active choice and sometimes as an exploitative last resort. To gain a fuller understanding of why young people engage in the gig economy, in-depth qualitative research is required. Focusing on workers’ experiences can help develop more robust theories of flexibility in contemporary employment, as well as potentially informing future policy objectives. Step 3: Set your aims and objectives Finally, the problem statement should frame how you intend to address the problem.

#### Example

##### Purpose statement

The purpose of the study is to explain how mental health stigma influences help seeking behavior among teens with mental health problems in a low income neighborhood in Accra, Ghana.

##### Research Question

How does mental health stigma influence help seeking behaviors among teens with mental health problems in a low income neighborhood in Accra, Ghana?

#### What is the appropriate approach for this study?

Grounded theory  
OR  
Case study approach

Your goal here should not be to find a conclusive solution, but rather to propose more effective approaches to tackling or understanding it.

The research aim is the overall purpose of your research. It is generally written in the infinitive form. The aim of this study is to determine... This project aims to explore... This research aims to investigate... The research objectives are the concrete steps you will take to achieve the aim: Qualitative methods will be used to identify... This work will use surveys to collect... Using statistical analysis, the research will measure... Practical research aims and objectivesThe aim of this research is to investigate effective engagement strategies to increase voter turnout in the Southeast. It will identify the most significant factors in non-voting using surveys and interviews, followed by conducting experiments to measure the effectiveness of different strategies. Theoretical research aims and objectivesThis project aims to better understand young people’s experiences in the gig economy. Qualitative methods will be used to gain in-depth insight into the motivations and perceptions of those under 30 engaged in freelance work across various industries.

##### A qualitative problem statement

Brain drain in Kenya is increasing (GENERAL PROBLEM). Every year about 50 professionals migrate abroad due to unsatisfactory working conditions (SPECIFIC PROBLEM WITH NUMBERS and supported with a citation). This brain drain is different from previous shortages, because it involves not only fresh graduates but also seasoned professionals (quote).

This crisis in the professionals’ industry requires innovative solutions. One innovative solution may be a less structured leadership style, such as steward leadership (quote). This qualitative case study (DESCRIPTION OF STUDY TYPE) will explore perceptions of professionals in Kenya (POPULATION BEING STUDIED) about steward leadership as a strategy to alleviate or reduce factors contributing to the brain drain among professionals in the lake basin region (GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF STUDY). The data to be gathered in this study may provide leaders with information relating to how they may address or mitigate factors contributing to the current brain drain.

##### A quantitative Statement of the Problem: an American example

Identity fraud is one of the fastest growing crimes in America (Adams, 2002). In 2003, at least 7 million Americans were victims of identity fraud, an increase of 79% from 2002 (APP, 2003). GENERAL PROBLEM SUPPORTED BY LITERATURE: The nation’s system of

This data will be contextualized with a review of recent literature on the gig economy and statistical analysis of demographic changes in the workforce. The aims and objectives should lead directly to your research questions. Learn how to formulate research questions Problem statement example You can use these steps to write your own problem statement, like the example below. Problem statement example Step 1: Contextualize the problem A family-owned shoe manufacturer has been in business in New England for several generations, employing thousands of local workers in a variety of roles, from assembly to supply-chain to customer service and retail. Employee tenure in the past always had an upward trend, with the average employee staying at the company for 10+ years. However, in the past decade, the trend has reversed, with some employees lasting only a few months, and others leaving abruptly after many years. Step 2: Show why it matters As the perceived loyalty of their employees has long been a source of pride for the company, they employed an outside consultant firm to see why there was so much turnover. The firm focused on the new hires, concluding that a rival shoe company located in the next town offered higher hourly wages and better “perks”, such as pizza parties. They claimed this was what was leading employees to switch. However, to gain a fuller understanding of why the turnover persists even after the consultant study, in-depth qualitative research focused on long-term employees is also needed. Focusing on why established workers leave can help develop a more telling reason why turnover is so high, rather than just due to salaries. It can also potentially identify points of change or conflict in the company’s culture that may cause workers to leave. Step 3: Set your aims and objectives This project aims to better understand why established workers choose to leave the company. Qualitative methods such as surveys and interviews will be conducted comparing the views of those who have worked 10+ years at the company and chose to stay, compared with those who chose to leave. Other interesting articles If you want to know more about the research process, methodology, research bias, or statistics, make sure to check out some of our other articles with explanations and examples. Frequently asked questions about problem statements How do I write a research objective? Once you’ve decided on your research objectives, you need to explain them in your paper, at the end of your problem statement.



# Nursing research problem statement

The purpose of this research is to assess the infection control practices among the nursing staff in Kenyan hospitals at the national level. On top of that, this domestic study works in evaluating attitude and knowledge about infection control among nursing staff in various Kenyan hospitals.

**Research Objectives:**

- To potentially identify gap between the knowledge of Kenyan nursing staff as well as their infection control practices.
- To assess the practices on infection control in Kenyan hospitals.
- To explore on the relationship between the attitudes of Kenyan nursing staff toward infection control as well as their knowledge with infection control.

**Quantitative Research Questions:**

Existence of Relationship

- Identifying whether or not there is a relationship in between the experience level, as well as a hand washing practice among staff nurses in Kenyan hospitals.

Nature and Direction of Relationship

- Do Kenyan male nurses perform basic hygienic measures such as washing their hand more often as compared to female nurses?

Strength of Relationship

- How strong is the actual relationship between hand-washing practice and experience?

**Qualitative Research Questions:**

**Process**

How has the patient-nurse relationship developed and evolved through time?

**Meaning**


What does it mean for cancer patient isolation for those who are residing in infection isolated room?

**Descriptive**

What are the experiences in life for Kenyan HIV positive?

**Analysis**

There is a huge correlation between the practices of the common staff nurses in hospitals, Kenyan private and public hospitals included, towards the actual hygienic condition and treatment progress among patients. Infection control is something that needs to be taken seriously. The use of infection isolated room is one thing; however there are also other methods that can also be implemented accordingly in order to potentially control the spread of infection among the group of patients being taken care of in hospitals.



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Keep your research objectives clear and concise, and use appropriate verbs to accurately convey the work that you will carry out for each one. Example: Verbs for research objectivesI will assess ... I will compare ... I will calculate ... If you want to cite this source, you can copy and paste the citation or click the "Cite this Scribbr article" button to automatically add the citation to our free Citation Generator.

McCombes, S. & George, T. (2023, May 31). How to Write a Problem Statement | Guide & Examples. Scribbr. Retrieved August 8, 2023, from A research problem is a specific issue or gap in existing knowledge that you aim to address in your research. You may choose to look for practical problems aimed at contributing to change, or theoretical problems aimed at expanding knowledge. Some research will do both of these things, but usually the research problem focuses on one or the other.

The type of research problem you choose depends on your broad topic of interest and the type of research you think will fit best. This article helps you identify and refine a research problem. When writing your research proposal or introduction, formulate it as a problem statement and/or research questions. Why is the research problem important?

Having an interesting topic isn't a strong enough basis for academic research. Without a well-defined research problem, you are likely to end up with an unfocused and unmanageable project. You might end up repeating what other people have already said, trying to say too much, or doing research without a clear purpose and justification. You need a clear problem in order to do research that contributes new and relevant insights. Whether you're planning your thesis, starting a research paper, or writing a research proposal, the research problem is the first step towards knowing exactly what you'll do and why. Step 1: Identify a broad problem area As you read about your topic, look for under-explored aspects or areas of concern, conflict, or controversy. Your goal is to find a gap that your research project can fill. Practical research problems If you are doing practical research, you can identify a problem by reading reports, following up on previous research, or talking to people who work in the relevant field or organization. You might look for: Issues with performance or efficiency Processes that could be improved Areas of concern among practitioners Difficulties faced by specific groups of people Examples of practical research problems Voter turnout in New England has been decreasing, in contrast to the rest of the country.

The HR department of a local chain of restaurants has a high staff turnover rate. A non-profit organization faces a funding gap that means some of its programs will have to be cut. Theoretical research problems If you are doing theoretical research, you can identify a research problem by reading existing research, theory, and debates on your topic to find a gap in what is currently known about it. You might look for: A phenomenon or context that has not been closely studied A contradiction between two or more perspectives A situation or relationship that is not well understood A troubling question that has yet to be resolved Examples of theoretical research problems The effects of long-term Vitamin D deficiency on cardiovascular health are not well understood. The relationship between gender, race, and income inequality has yet to be closely studied in the context of the millennial gig economy.

Historians of Scottish nationalism disagree about the role of the British Empire in the development of Scotland's national identity. Scribbr editors not only correct grammar and spelling mistakes, but also strengthen your writing by making sure your paper is free of vague language, redundant words, and awkward phrasing. See editing example Step 2: Learn more about the problem Next, you have to find out what is already known about the problem, and pinpoint the exact aspect that your research will address. Context and background Who does the problem affect? Is it a newly-discovered problem, or a well-established one?

What research has already been done? What, if any, solutions have been proposed? What are the current debates about the problem? What is missing from these debates? Specificity and relevance What particular place, time, and/or group of people will you focus on? What aspects will you not be able to tackle? What will the consequences be if the problem is not resolved?

Example of a specific research problem A local non-profit organization focused on alleviating food insecurity has always fundraised from its existing support base. It lacks understanding of how best to target potential new donors. To be able to continue its work, the organization requires research into more effective fundraising strategies. Next steps Once you have narrowed down your research problem, the next step is to formulate a problem statement, as well as your research questions or hypotheses. Other interesting articles If you want to know more about the research process, methodology, research bias, or statistics, make sure to check out some of our other articles with explanations and examples. Frequently asked questions about research problems If you want to cite this source, you can copy and paste the citation or click the "Cite this Scribbr article" button to automatically add the citation to our free Citation Generator.

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