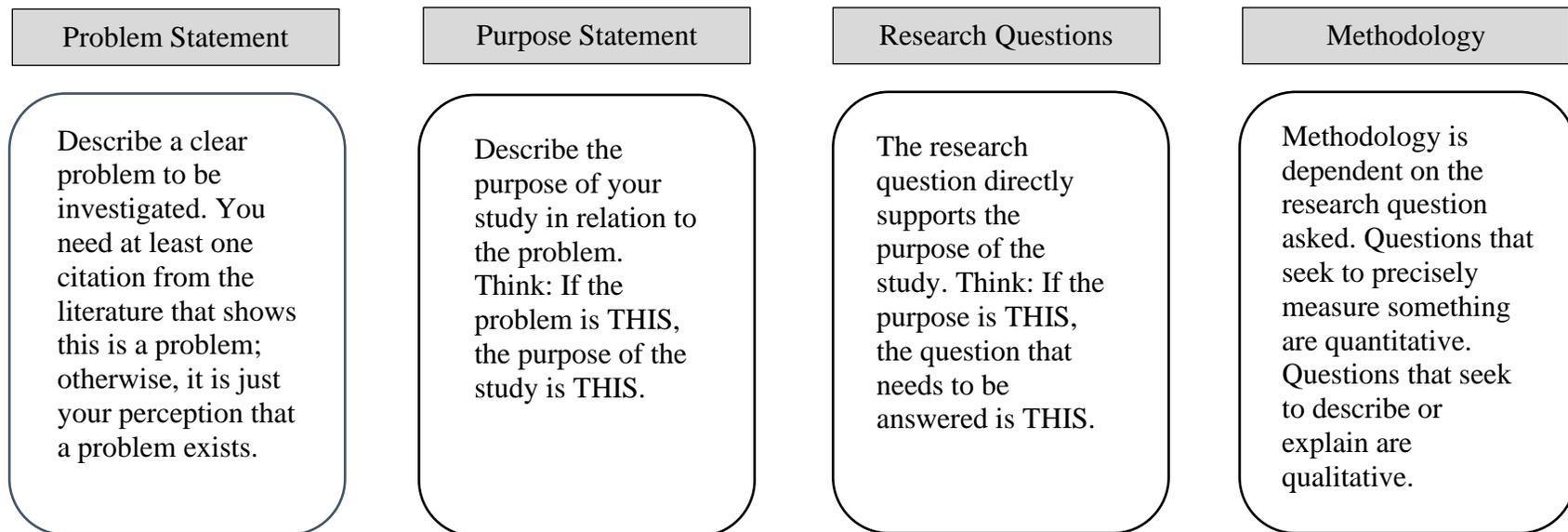


Alignment of Study Elements

One of the biggest challenge that many novice researchers have when crafting their study is ensuring that everything is aligned. A study that is well-aligned is logical and easy to follow; all of the main parts (problem, purpose, research questions, methodology) build on each other in a way that makes sense.

Let's follow the path of a well-aligned study.



Study Alignment Chart

Here is a template that you can use to help ensure the elements of your study are aligned.

Problem Statement	Purpose Statement	Research Question(s)	Methodology
The problem to be investigated is...	If the problem to be investigated is....the purpose of the study is...	If the purpose of the study is...the question that needs to be asked and answered is...	If the question asks to precisely measure something, the methodology (design, sample, data collection, and data analysis) needs to be quantitative. If the question requires description, explanation, etc., the methodology needs to be qualitative.

Alignment of Research Questions and Interview/Focus Group Questions

If you are doing a qualitative study, you will need to align each interview or focus group question with the research question it addresses. This helps you see if you are collecting adequate data on each research question. Below is a sample.

Interview Questions	Alignment to Research Questions
<p>What would you say is your most effective classroom management strategy?</p> <p>When you try a new classroom management strategy, how do you know if it is effective or not?</p>	RQ1: What are teachers’ perceptions about the effectiveness of their classroom management strategies?
<p>When your students come in on the first day of class, how do you tell them what you expect from them in terms of behavior?</p> <p>Besides explaining out loud to students what you expect in terms of behavior, how else do you indicate your expectations?</p>	RQ2: How do teachers communicate their behavior expectations to students during class?