

## Beginning to Develop a Research Agenda

Define your broad research topic. What is the overarching, long-term research question you seek to address over the course of your career? Your topic should be important to the field and to society; hold your personal and professional interest; and have many aspects to be investigated. Identify at least one research question or idea you are interested in pursuing in the next couple of years. This can be something you've identified through your dissertation work that merits further investigation, an aspect of the DRK-12 project you are working on, or other research ideas that relate to your agenda, or other projects, you're working on that aligns with your research agenda.

1. Identify your research motivation for this study.
  - Who is your target audience?
  - What practices are you trying to inform?
  - Why is this work important to you?
2. Hypothesize about potential implications of your study.
  - What will this study add to the knowledge base on this research topic?
  - How does this study support my research agenda?
3. Locate your scholarly community with whom to dialogue about your ideas.
  - Who writes about the topics of your study? What work informs their research?
  - What are the known research trends on this topic? What areas have been sufficiently studied and what areas need additional work?
  - Who in my network can offer insight on this topic? Who are other scholars of this topic with whom I could connect?
  - What other opportunities exist to learn more about this topic (e.g., conferences, serving as a reviewer)?
4. What content area do you plan to examine?
5. What is the context for your study (e.g., grades, formal/informal, urban/rural)?
6. What is the theoretical framework guiding the study?
7. What is the conceptual framework guiding the study?
8. What are the appropriate methodological tools for the study?
9. What types of partnerships will be necessary for carrying out the study?

Repeat this process for additional research questions or ideas you would like to pursue.

### Best Practices

- Schedule a regular time to think about your research and revise your agenda; make this part of your routine.
- Keep an ongoing record of interesting observations or ideas for possible future studies as they arise.
- When you publish an article, write a short paragraph in a document about how the article represents your work, contributes to your research agenda, and adds to the conversations taking place in your field.
- Re-examine your research achievements at regular intervals to ensure progress toward answering your long-term questions.

**Adapted from:** [Developing a Research Agenda - Contributing New Knowledge via Intent and Focus](#); [Designing and Conducting Quality Research in Mathematics Education: Building a Program](#); [Mapping out a Research Agenda](#); [Creating a Research Agenda](#); [Planning Your Research Agenda](#)