HOW DO I DEVELOP A RESEARCH QUESTION?
Does handwashing or hand sanitizer use among health care personnel reduce cross infection rates in U.S. hospitals?
If you’re having trouble with this step, check out the Project Planner in the SAGE Research Methods database.

This tool can help you think about the type of question you want to ask and help you ensure you’re choosing a manageable research question.
You can access SAGE Research Methods from the Databases A-Z list on the library website.
Search for additional resources

Once you have a question, look for additional sources of information. These sources will help you further understand your topic and refine your research question.

Keep in mind your assignment requirements--do you need books, articles, data?
You may want to begin searching in databases specific to your subject area to find the most tailored results.

You can find a list of the best databases for your subject area by clicking on the Research Subject Guides link on the library website.
Search for additional resources

Browse or search the list of guides to find a guide appropriate to your topic.
Then, look for the list of key databases in the guide.

These will be some of the best places to start your research.
As you continue your searching, evaluate your results. As you learn more about your topic, you may want to revise your research question.

For example, during your research you may find more studies about nurses’ hand hygiene and may choose to focus on nurses instead of health care personnel.
As you continue exploring your question, check frequently: Are you describing a topic, offering opinions, or asking a question?

If your assignment requires you to ask and answer a research question don’t let yourself get sidetracked.
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