CHECKLIST
EVALUATING THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

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

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.

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: