Questionopoly: Non-visual Version

Welcome to questionopoly this is a game to help you reflect on your research questions, narrow these down and prevent you from going down the rabbit hole but staying on track. If you are using a screen reader I have inserted the phrase: Pause here after each task so you know when to stop and take time to reflect, or chat with your peers and take notes. If I intersperse question with a description I will repeat the question before the pause, so you don’t have to try keeping it in your mind.

Okay ready? Let’s start!

Question One: take a note of (or talk your co-player about) your teaching or learning interest or dilemma or idea.

Pause here

Done? Hooray!

Question Two: Can you formulate this into concrete questions? Take note of what these would be.

Pause here

Done? Do a little happy dance, jiggle or noise.

Stop! Before we continue: Do not go straight to methods (e.g. interviews, focus group, or questionnaires. Take a moment to pause before you move to the next question. Often my students jump straight from idea to methods, which comes with all kinds of problems. Spend a moment to settle yourself back into your questions.

Pause Here

Question Three: Why do you actually ask these questions? Reflect on it. This is intentionally a little provocative, because this is the entrance to the first rabbit hole. I repeat: Why do you actually ask these questions?

Pause here

Do you have your answers? Well done! You avoided the first rabbit hole!

Question four: What is it you really want to know or understand? Take note of this.

Pause here

Did you manage to formulate this? Time to make a cup of tea or coffee or give yourself a pad on the shoulder (virtually or literally—not sure how much you can pretzel yourself. I tried, and something went pop)!

Question five: Who do you want to know this for?

Pause here

Have you figured it out? Hip Hip Hooray! You are on track to becoming a research (SoTL) superhero!

Now Stop and Plan. How does this all fit into your scholarship narrative? Your L&T profile?

Reflect and don’t forget to make notes—I always tell myself: Ach I will remember. Oh the little self-lies. I repeat: think about how this fits into your scholarship narrative, or L&T profile.

Pause here

Done? If you are in a group agree on a little celebration. If you are on your own have a little treat.

You are halfway through.

Question 6 is next: Based on the previous steps: can you formulate specific topics or themes?

Pause here

Done? Time for a music break? Or a snack?

Question7: Can you formulate concrete research questions?

After reflecting on your audience, your research story, and rephrasing your themes. Now is the time to formulate more concrete questions.

Pause here

Done? You are on a roll! Keep going.

Sorry I meant: Stop and Reflect. Is the project feasible? In terms of workload and or time scale?

Warning: this is often a rabbit hole in disguise. What are the resources you need? How much time do you anticipate in spending on the project?

Pause here

Question eight: Last question before I send you off with a challenge. Based on your reflection about workload and timescale: finalise your research question(s).

Pause here

Done? You have reached research hero level. Time to set a challenge!

Before you finish. Take note of all the methods you know and put them out of your mind. Now employ your research hero skills and try to find one or two new appropriate methods for your project.

Pause here

Hooray you are done! Congratulations!