

Characteristics of Testable Questions (a guide for developing scientific questions for inquiry)

“SMART Questions”

- **Specific** (not too broad) –
 - a testable question begins with How, What, When, Who, or Which, (not Why, Is, or Does).
- **Measureable** (there are datasets available to answer the question) –
 - a testable question can't be answered just by doing reading.
- **Achievable** (the question is able to be investigated with data) –
 - data are available to and accessible by you.
- **Relevant** (who cares and why do they care) –
 - you can explain why you care about asking the question
- **Temporally and Spatially bound** –
 - the question includes when and where the data are coming from

Checklist for Testable Questions

- Question begins with How, What, When, Who, or Which.
- Question is measurable or able to be investigated with data - available to and accessible by you
- Question includes anticipated effects (experiment) or relationships (descriptive/observational study) that are being investigated.
- Question only includes 1-2 variables.