

Refining your research question/operationalizing your variables

1. **Individually:** Consider the key terms and main variables of interest for your research question. Define each one on a conceptual level (ie: how will you define “popularity”) and then describe the operational definition (ie: what observations you could use to decide what popularity level someone has). Write this in paragraph or bullet form on the computer. Put your research question at the top of the page.
2. **In pairs (pick someone you haven’t worked with yet):** Don’t talk about your work, simply read what your partner has written and have them read what you have written (just look at each other’s screens to save the time and bother of printing out what you have written so far). It is important that you are able to convey your ideas clearly to someone else in writing, not just in speech. Consider the following questions:
 - a. Does your partner’s research question make sense to you?
 - b. Does the way your partner is defining his/her key terms to you make sense? What about the way he/she is operationalizing them?
 - c. Are there other ways you partner could define these terms and operationalize them?
 - d. Are there other terms that your partner needs to define and operationalize other than what they have done so far? If so, what are they and how might they define/operationalize them?

When you have each read each other’s work and thought through the questions above, talk through your thoughts with each other. You do not need to write these thoughts down.

3. **Individually:** Based on the feedback you got from your partner, write new conceptual and operational definitions for your research question below your first draft. If your partner’s feedback makes you want to alter the wording of your research question further, please do so here as well, while leaving your first draft at the top of the page. This will help me follow your thought process best.
4. **Print out** your final product, and turn both in via BB.