

Developing Your SoTL Question

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<p>Step 1: <i>Envisioning the SoTL Investigation</i></p>	<p>Start here if:</p> <p>You are not sure what area of student learning you want to investigate.</p>	<p>Questions to help you do this step:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What question about student learning comes up as you teach one of your courses? • What are the most important learning goals in your course? • What problems/challenges do your students encounter in your course/program? • What special circumstances of your institution, division or department are you required to address in your teaching? • How effective is one of the activities that you now do in the course? • How does the course environment either help or constrain students meet your learning goals?
<p>Step 2: <i>Framing/Focusing Your Question</i></p>	<p>Start here if:</p> <p>You know what area you will investigate and what course, but would like to focus the question more specifically and concretely.</p>	<p>Questions to help you do this step:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related to your emerging question try to state specifically what you want to investigate. • What do you hope to find out? • What data or information will address your question? • State a working hypothesis to your question. • Can you make concrete any abstract subjects or objects included in your question? Implied by your question?
<p>Step 3: <i>Moving forward with your investigation</i></p>	<p>Once the question/s are set:</p> <p>Do you continue with a SoTL inquiry? While you may identify worthy questions, not all questions are worthy for you to pursue as SoTL work.</p>	<p>Questions to help you decide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this question compelling for you? Your time is important and you should do SoTL work that interests you. • Is this question of importance beyond your course? How would you share your results? • Is it possible to answer this question? What methods could you use to gather the evidence needed? • Can you revise the question to make the answers to these prompts “yes”?