# QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

Finding and Using Quality Information Sources

1. **What is the area of Communication you are interested in?** *(Try to be as specific as possible.)*
   
   I’m interested in whether or not instructional messages using fear appeals really persuade students to study harder.

2. **What do you think is true about the topic?** List what you believe to be true about the topic.

3. **What keywords are associated with the topic?** List them and include possible synonyms.

4. **What resources are potentially relevant to your topic?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electronic Databases</th>
<th>Websites</th>
<th>Handbooks</th>
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5. **Begin your search for information.** Scan the sources you have found for keywords and revise #3 above.

6. **Review and evaluate the information.** What have you discovered about the topic from the sources you found?
   a. What questions have been answered? *(What do we already know?)*

   b. What questions remain unanswered? *(What do we still need to know? What gaps are there in our knowledge?)*

   c. Should any studies be replicated? *(How strong is the evidence? What type of research has been done?)*

7. **Reformulate your original research question based on the knowledge you now have of the topic.**