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Lesson Plan: Moving Beyond Scenarios

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Lesson Plan: Moving Beyond Scenarios

Moving from Scenario to Research Question / Work on Draft Research Question (15 min.)

(open slides) You've all chosen research scenarios from the list provided.

Sample Research Scenarios
You are the new warden at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility. You've been asked by the Director Raemisch to develop and implement a new plan for women's health care that can be used as a model on the national level.
The Colorado Springs police chief, Peter Carey, wants to have a more culturally diverse police force. He has asked you to report on ways to recruit and retain more diverse candidates.
Your task is to convince Colorado Department of Corrections Executive Director Rick Raemisch that all Colorado prisons should provide drug treatment to nonviolent offenders.
The Denver Sheriff Department has been commended for its policies for transgender detainees. To build on that success, Governor Hickenlooper has asked you to make recommendations for other Colorado prisons regarding best practices for transgender prisoners.
Evans police chief, Rick Brandt, is considering moving the Evans PD in a more community-oriented programming direction in order to reduce crime. He has asked you to summarize the pros and cons of this idea and make a recommendation.

However, these scenarios are not focused research questions. Let's work together through this scenario to see how we can move beyond this scenario toward a research question. We'll answer this fill-in-the-blank question from Turabian to develop a new question.

From scenario to research question

Scenario: You've taken a job as the Assistant Director of the Platte Valley Youth Services Center in Greeley, which houses youth ages 10-17. Your first assignment is working with the Greeley community to implement new programming that will help alleviate juvenile recidivism in the city.

I am working on the topic _____ because I want to find out _____ so that I can suggest to _____ what to do to improve _____.

From scenario to research question

Scenario: You've taken a job as the Assistant Director of the Platte Valley Youth Services Center in Greeley, which houses youth ages 10-17. Your first assignment is working with the Greeley community to implement new programming that will help alleviate juvenile recidivism in the city.

I am working on the topic **of programming for juvenile offenders** because I want to find out **what diversion program is most effective for juvenile rehabilitation** so that I can suggest to the **Director of the Platte Valley Youth Services Center** what to do to improve **the number of juveniles in our facility that return with subsequent offenses.**

After discussion, have students work on developing a draft research question

- Allow students to work through the fill-in-the blank sentence and then share with a partner.
- Start to draft a research question for your scenario and draft a focused question.
- You may not have a specific question yet, so talk about what you've found, what you want to know.

Scenario to Question Review (10 min.)

(open slides) Let's take another look at our research scenarios again and do a bit of review. So here is the scenario we worked on together, and this is sentence we came up with. So, to put it all together, here is a sample research question based on this scenario. Questions?

From scenario to research question

Scenario: You've taken a job as the Assistant Director of the Platte Valley Youth Services Center in Greeley, which houses youth ages 10-17. Your first assignment is working with the Greeley community to implement new programming that will help alleviate juvenile recidivism in the city.

I am working on the topic of **programming for juvenile offenders** because I want to find out **what diversion program is most effective for juvenile rehabilitation** so that I can suggest to the **Director of the Platte Valley Youth Services Center** what to do to improve **the number of juveniles in our facility that return with subsequent offenses.**

Let's look at another example. This is a scenario and research question from a previous student. *What do you like about what this student did? What would you change?*

From scenario to research question

I am working on the topic of *increasing Hispanic diversity* in the police force because I want to find out what the *best practices for recruiting and retaining the Hispanic population* inside the police force is so that I can suggest to the *Aurora Police* what to do to *improve the Hispanic diversity within his police force.*

What practices can be incorporated in a police force to increase the recruitment and retention of the Hispanic population within the police force?

Now, for the next five minutes or so, work with a partner. Finalize your sentence and write up a draft research question. Remember, it doesn't have to be perfect, it's a draft.

Assignment: From Scenario to Draft Research Question

Purpose: Up to this point, your research has revolved around a particular scenario highlighting an important issue in Criminology and Criminal Justice. This assignment will help you focus your research by having you develop a specific research question that your scenario has inspired you to ask. As a researcher, you not only want to answer your research question through evidence that you've gathered, but you want to convey to your audience why the question is worth answering in the first place. While research questions are common in academic writing, they also have a place in practical, workplace environments.

Task: Thinking about your chosen scenario, fill in the blanks to the sentence below.

I am working on the topic _____ because I want to find out _____ so that I can suggest to _____ what to do to fix/improve _____.

Based on the sentence you've constructed, write a draft research question. Be sure to use the criteria for an effective research question.

Criteria: You will be evaluated on your completion of both the draft research question and the sentence explaining why you want to tackle this research question. Be sure to check the criteria of an effective research question.