

**IAT 834 Mixed Methods in Design Evaluation****Research Design Assignment #1:** Research Topic

**Due:** We will work through this in the second part of class.

Email to me by 5 pm following Sunday.

Please email a word document using the format "IAT834\_Assign1\_Name".

In-class we will work through these exercises. Hand in your final versions of exercises 1–4. You may hand in your final answers to exercise 5-7.

1. In less than 50 words describe your research topic.  
You may start with, "My study is about ..."  
Include phenomenon: people (who), context (where), activity (doing what), interactive technology (with what) (as discussed in class)  
Include: the role or relationship of design to the phenomenon to be studied. For example: design of, requirements for design of, evaluation of design or prototype, comparison of designs, design processes for designing etc ...  
If your topic doesn't include design come see me.
2. In less than 30 words, write a question that addresses what you hope to find out about your topic.  
Think about the difference between descriptive questions (how, what) and inferential questions (does, can). See Creswell (2013) on research questions.  
Write two 30 word questions if you're really stuck.
3. In less than 50 words answer: "Why would the answer to your question in 2. be useful/helpful?"
4. In less than 50 words answer: "How does your topic contribute new knowledge to the existing body of research to which this topic belongs?"
5. In less than 50 words answer: "Can YOU research this topic?"  
Your answer should address practical questions related to your expertise, your access to subjects, data and/or prototypes, your skills at design and/or prototype development, your time and access to other resources you might need (e.g., equipment, space).
6. In less than 50 words answer: "Can you get support from a SIAT Faculty member to research this topic?"  
Your answer should address the interests and research expertise of current SIAT faculty. Eventually, you will need to determine if any SIAT faculty have expertise in the methodology and methods you will be using. This does not have to be the same person who has expertise in your topic area but you will need support in both areas.
7. In less than 50 words answer: "How does researching this topic help me reach my personal goals?"  
Your answer should address how this work might contribute to career aspirations including doing further research, obtaining a future position in industry (e.g., as a designer) or in academe (e.g., as faculty) or advancing towards a degree. You may be doing this work purely out of interest. In this case, please address how this work might contribute to you being a happy, productive member of society.