24. Community-Based Research Design Template

Part One: Defining and Refining Your Research Question

1.   What is your research question?

2.   Why is this a worthwhile question? By investigating this question, what problem will you be helping your community partner to address?

3.   What do you know so far about your research topic:

    a. From your own experience or from your community partner?

    b. From the scholarly literature?

4.   Critical reflection on your research question:

    a. Is it clear, specific, and feasible for you to answer adequately in the time available?

b. What kind of question are you asking? For instance, do you have a hypothesis

you are testing? Or is your research more exploratory and inductive, so that your

goal is to *develop* rather than to *test* a hypothesis?

c. By the way you have framed your question, is it clear that you understand the

distinction between research and (political or organizational) advocacy? Will

your research respect the principles of open inquiry?

5.   Who else is on your project team?

a. Faculty Mentor   _____

b. Community Partner   _____

c. Others?   _____

Part Two: What is your Research Design? What steps will you follow to answer your question?

1. What data do you need to collect? How will you decide the parameters of this data? (For instance, if you will be studying a particular population, who belongs and who doesn't? If you will be collecting data from documents, what documents will you need, over what timeframe, etc.?)

2. What method or methods will you use to collect data?   (e.g., one-on-one interviews, surveys, focus groups, questionnaires, direct observation, analysis of documents, etc.)

3. What is your project timeline? What are the "lock-in" dates for your project to ensure that you are able to leave a research product with your community partner before you leave? *(Dates in parentheses are a suggested project timeline for a 10-week summer research internship)*

    a. Lock-in Date #1: Finalizing your research question and research design

    (End of week 2)

    My lock-in date #1 is: _____

    b. Lock-in Date #2: Completing your "data collection" phase

    (End of week 6)

    My lock-in date #2 is: _____

c. Lock-in Date #3: Completing your "data analysis" phase

(End of week 8)

My lock-in date #3 is: _____

d. Lock-in Date #4: Completing your research synthesis, conclusions, and recommendations and giving your research product to your community partner

(End of week 10)

My lock-in date #4 is: _____

4. What *logistical* issues do you need to think about in collecting your data?

5. What *ethical* issues do you need to think about in collecting your data?