N 536 - Utilization of Nursing Research in Advanced Practice, Summer 2008

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Topic 1: Compose research problems and purposes
### Steps in Planning Your Research Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level Question</th>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Design Level</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. What is or what are</td>
<td>Little to no literature on the topic</td>
<td>To declare or claim a statement(s)</td>
<td>Exploratory</td>
<td>Exploratory</td>
<td>Small sample or total population</td>
<td>Qualitative, structured, or unstructured data</td>
<td>Content analysis and constant comparison</td>
<td>Description of the processes, concepts or phenomena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. What is or what are the relationships between or among variables</td>
<td>Conceptual or theoretical base</td>
<td>To test a question(s) or hypothesis(es)</td>
<td>Descriptive</td>
<td>Correlational</td>
<td>As large as possible</td>
<td>Structured or quantitative data collection</td>
<td>Correlation analysis, or tests of association</td>
<td>Explanation of the relationship among variables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Why</td>
<td>Theoretical base</td>
<td>To test a hypothesis(es)</td>
<td>Experimental</td>
<td>Quasi-experimental</td>
<td>Non-random assignment to groups</td>
<td>Structured or quantitative data</td>
<td>Differences between sets of scores</td>
<td>Test a theory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* This table was modified from the table included in the book of Wood and Ross-Kerr (2006).