

The Question Improvement Model: A Simple and Scalable Model for Improving the Question Formulation Skills of Ph.D. Students

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PROJECT

- Creating training materials to help PhD students gain skills in formulating research questions by...
- Using the Question Improvement Model (QIM), which is based on the widely-disseminated Question Formulation Technique
- We have taught the QIM to 20 PhD students (some in-person and some online)

FAILURES

Issues:

- Need to better integrate with PhD training
- Teaching materials very effective for some, not all
- Participant attrition

Responses:

- Integrate more fully into PhD training
- Try to get buy-in from research advisors
- Start at beginning of school year
- Strengthen recruitment pitch
- Further hone teaching materials

METRICS

- Students gain a methodology to formulate questions more efficiently
- Students become confident that they can use this methodology
- After training, students will be able to...
*Formulate more questions
of higher quality
more easily*

WHAT NEXT?

- We will focus on integration with PhD training and endorsement by advisors
- We are discussing using the program at a nearby state university (and will reach out to others)
- We hope to integrate with other Germination projects... once we learn about them
- *The White Whale*: Nobody seems to know how to define what a high quality question is, yet that is the underlying (and long-term) goal... we want to begin exploring what makes questions *better*