

## TOM 460

### Checklist for Evaluating the Problem

#### Faults Resulting from Lack of Understanding of the Nature of Research:

1. Problem seems to be merely an exercise in gathering data on a particular subject.
2. Problem seems to be little more than a simple comparison.
3. Problem can be resolved finally with a yes or no answer.
4. Problem seems to indicate that all you will have ultimately is a list of items.
5. Problem seems to indicate that the end result will be a simple correlation coefficient.
6. Problem has no words in it which indicate the need for interpretation of data.

#### Faults Relating to Pseudoproblems:

7. Problem indicates that you have an opinion or position that you would like to defend or prove.
8. Problem lacks focus: you are attempting to do too many things.
9. Problem is too big: it exceeds your time, budget, manpower, or data access capabilities.
10. Problem gets into an area about which you know little or nothing, and have little or no experience.

#### Faults Relating to the Language and Manner in Which You State the Problem:

11. Problem statement is a meaningless fragment: you have no sentence.
12. Problem statement is vague and general, with imprecise and careless use of words.
13. Problem is stated in clichés, or in convoluted and involved language which does not communicate.
14. Problem statement contains anonymous antecedents: pronouns without referents.
15. You have additional discussion: a preamble, apology, or statement of why you have an interest in the problem area, or other discussion. You have written more than simply the statement of the problem.