Class Activities

# Chapter #2: Formulating a Research Question

1. A researcher is interested in studying the relationship between perceived social support and mental health outcomes among adult males in New York City. Individually, develop a null and two alternative hypotheses (one directional and one nondirectional) to study this relationship. Use the null and alternative hypothesis notation introduced in this chapter. Finally, share and comment on the hypotheses of the person sitting next to you.
2. A study shows that drinking tea is associated with decreased heart disease. Discuss the plausibility of this relationship and whether you can assume, based on this association, that drinking tea *causes* decreased risk for heart disease. Is there any reason you might question this relationship? What else might explain this relationship?
3. A researcher is interested in measuring the socioeconomic status (SES) of a population. She proposes to ask members of this population about their level of income to measure. Discuss limitations to this particular operationalization of SES. What might be other ways to operationalize SES? Discuss limitations of each of these strategies.