# Supporting questions in mapping the state-of-the-art

**The following questions help in mapping the state-of-the-art for a research proposal:**

### Defining the key terms
- What are the key terms we use to look at the practice issue, and how are these defined in the literature?

### Describing the practice issue
- According to the literature, what are the characteristics of the issue? What should we pay attention to?
- According to the literature, what are the characteristics of the desired situation? When is a situation good/effective?

### Explaining the issue
- According to the literature, what are the causes or reasons for this problem occurring?

### Designing the solution
- What solutions does the literature offer?
- What requirements are set to the solution in the literature?

### Explaining the solutions
- According to the literature, what are the reasons for a specific solution working, or not working?
- According to the literature, what are the conditions for success and things to take into account?

### Designing the research project itself
- Which data collection methods can I use?
- Which data analysis methods can I use?
- Operationalise the terms to be measured. E.g 'What are existing surverys?'.