The best practices for survey research consist of forming a research question, asking questions, and drafting survey instruments. Collecting data from outside sources like other surveys as well as from field research is important to developing what questions should be asked. Test your survey research question to get the best results.

My research question is “How is Parent Involvement in Children’s Education effected in a Single Parent or Divorced Household?” The survey question that I will use to operationalize my dependent variable is “How involved do you feel in your child’s education?” This will be based on a scale of 0 – 10. The survey question that I will use to operationalize my independent variable is “Does financial stress prevent you from being involved in your child’s education?” This will be based on the answers of yes often, yes sometimes, and no. What makes these good/well written questions is that they have been reviewed by outside experts within the sociology department as well as other outside sources like students. These questions also will help gauge the type of stress parents who participate in the survey are enduring as well as the help they may need.