

Research 101

Worksheet: Topics

Your name:

Class & section:

Research topic:

Forming a Research Question

1. What is your general topic? *Remember, your topic will likely change as a result of your search—sometimes dramatically.
2. What disciplines or academic fields may be interested in this topic? (Consult <http://www.lakeland.edu/John-Esch-Library/database-find-articles> for ideas: select the button on the bottom that reads, 'by subject'.)
3. Brainstorm some approaches you might take with this topic and write down at least 3 of them. (Your "approach" is the perspective you wish to take on your topic, driven by your interest or available information. For example, are you interested in legal aspects, social, impacts on gender or race, physical or psychological?)

4. Write a topic definition statement (no more than 5 sentences, if possible)

A topic definition statement should do the following:

Provide background for the issues	Much collegiate sportswear is produced in sweatshops in third world countries. Laborers earn pennies a day under horrible working conditions. Yet consumers pay exorbitant prices for these goods.
Summarize the purpose of your project and how you will accomplish it	This paper will examine the degree to which consumers are able to influence corporations to do business in a socially responsible manner. Therefore, I will identify instances of abuses in the collegiate sportswear industry and demonstrate how consumers can make an impact upon corporations.
Include a "working title"	"Ethical Consumerism: Can It Make a Difference?"
Indicate questions to be answered	Key question: "What impact can ethical consumerism have on corporations and the environment?"

Topic definition statement:

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As an option to the topic definition statement, write a preliminary research question here. This question may evolve and change over time. The box below suggests a possible model for a research question:

Topic	Research question
I'm studying <u>eating disorders</u>	to find out <u>why women more than men are affected by them</u> in order to
Significance/Rationale	
understand <u>what social conditions exist and what changes can be made to prevent this disorder.</u>	

5. Now that you have a major question upon which to focus your research, write at least 3 but no more than 5 related or sub-questions that will need answering (e.g. statistical data or factual information):

Creating Research Vocabulary

6. What are the key terms or concepts in your research question or topic statement? (There should be *at least* 2)

7. Write *at least* 3 terms related to your first key concept. (Follow the guidelines for broader, related, and narrower.)

BROADER:
RELATED:
NARROWER:

8. Write *at least* 3 terms related to your second key concept. (Follow the guidelines for broader, related, and narrower.)

BROADER:
RELATED:
NARROWER:

9. Write *at least* 3 terms related to your third key concept, as appropriate. If you have other key concepts, follow the same format below. (Follow the guidelines for broader, related, and narrower.)

BROADER:
RELATED:
NARROWER: