

# Topics Worksheet: Research 101

**Your name:**

**class & section:**

**research topic:**

## **Forming a Research Question**

1. What is your general topic?
2. What disciplines or academic fields may be interested in this topic?
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 down the titles of all sources you use to gather preliminary or background information on your topic. Give a brief summary of what each contributes to your project:

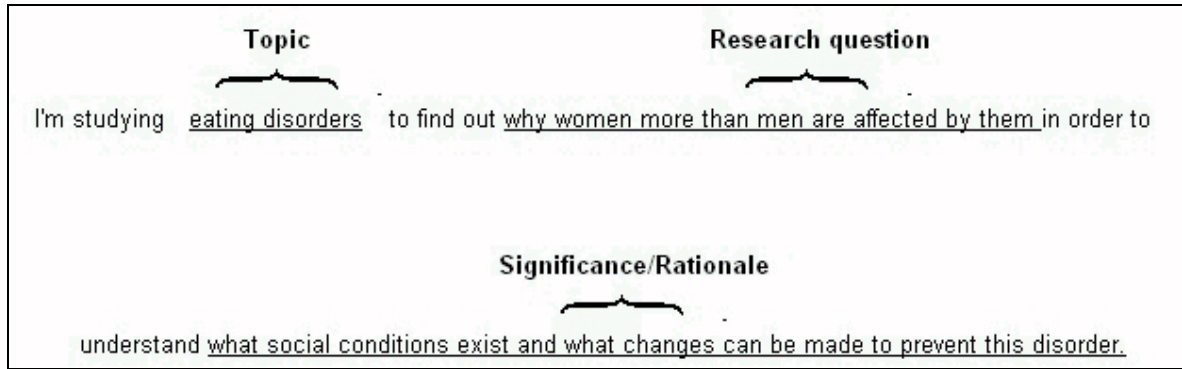
5. Write a topic definition statement (no more than 5 sentences, if possible)

**A topic definition statement should do the following:**

<b>Provide background for the issues</b>	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.
<b>Summarize the purpose of your project and how you will accomplish it</b>	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.
<b>Include a "working title"</b>	"Ethical Consumerism: Can It Make a Difference?"
<b>Indicate questions to be answered</b>	<b>Key question:</b> "What impact can ethical consumerism have on corporations and the environment?"

**Topic definition statement:**

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:



6. 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

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

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

BROADER:  
RELATED:  
NARROWER:

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

BROADER:  
RELATED:  
NARROWER:

11. 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:

# Searching Worksheet: Research 101

Your name:	<input type="text"/>
class & section:	<input type="text"/>
research topic	<input type="text"/>

## **Searching Databases:**

12. Based on the disciplines you choose under TOPICS, list the names of 4 databases you think should have information useful to your research and *list your reasons for selecting each*. Your answer should reflect what you know about a database's *coverage and disciplinary orientation*:

13. Perform a search for information relevant to your research for each database you listed above. List below the ***exact search statement*** you used, (including which specific fields you searched), whether or not the search was effective and why.

# Evaluating Worksheet: Research 101

Your name:	*	<input type="text"/>	
class & section:	*	<input type="text"/>	
research topic:		<input type="text"/>	

## **Determining Credibility**

14. Who is the author of your source, and what are their credentials?

15. Who is the publisher and what do you know about them?

## **Determining Usefulness**

16. When was the source published and how does this affect its usefulness for your purpose?

17. What type of audience is the author addressing, specialized or general? How does this impact your use of the source?

18. How extensively does the source cover the topic? Is the information appropriate for your project? Is it either too simple or too complex? Too broad or too specific?

19. Based on the information gathered in this worksheet, will you end up using the source you have evaluated? If so, why? If not, describe a project for which your information source would be more appropriate.