Research Planning and Argumentation

Five Questions Worksheets

# **Five Considerations for Research Planning\***

1. Identify a Topic

Be as specific as possible - identify key words you might use in a search  
**\*I am working on the topic of -**

1. Develop Questions & Begin Research

Use the words “how” or “why” so that questions need explaining - record your sources  
**\*Because I want to find out how/why -**

1. Draft Significance

The most interesting, important point your paper will make and what else needs explaining  
**\*To help others understand -**

1. Draft Purpose

Consider why you are writing – what might you want others to do or to think?  
**\*And they might use my work to -**

1. Identify an Audience

Think about their levels of knowledge and interest to guide your research and level of detail.  
**\*These others are -**

\*Based on the Turabian style research statement:  
I am working on X to find out Y so that others can better understand Z.

# **Five Considerations for Argumentation\***

1. Claims

Statements requiring explanation and reasonable discussion  
**\*What should we understand? My main point is -**

1. Reasons & Evidence

Reasons are abstract ideas or theories, and evidence refers to real things  
**\*How do we know? The reasons, facts, and data to back this up are -**

1. Recognize the Alternatives

Questions, objections, evidence to the contrary, or other reasonable points of view  
**\*But what about. . . ? Other ways of thinking about this are -**

1. Response to Alternatives

**\*How is my point better, how do alternatives relate to it?**

1. Assumptions and Limits

Explain the assumptions behind, connections between, and limits of any claims  
**\*What is my reasoning? My claim is true because -**  
  
  
**\*My claim is limited to -**

\*Based on *The Craft of Research*, 4th Edition  
By Booth, Colomb, Williams, Bizup, and Fitzgerald