Five Questions Worksheet
Research Planning + Research Argumentation

Five Considerations for Research Planning

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

Develop Questions & Begin Research
Use the words *how* and/or *why* so questions need explaining - Record your sources
*Because I want to find out how/why -

Draft Significance
The most interesting, important point the paper will make and what needs explaining
*To help others understand -

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

Identify an Audience
Think about their levels of knowledge and interest to guide your research
*These others are -

#based in the Turabian style research statement:
I am working on X to find out Y so that others can better understand Z.

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Five Considerations for Research Argumentation#

Claims
Statements requiring explanation about which there can be reasonable discussion

*What should we understand? My main point is -

Reasons & Evidence
Reasons are ideas & evidence refers to real things

*How do we know? The reasons, facts/data to back this up are -

Recognition of Alternatives
Questions, objections, evidence to the contrary, other reasonable points of view

*But what about . . . ? Other ways of thinking about this are -

Response to Alternatives

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

Assumptions and Limits
Explain the assumptions behind, connections between, and any limits of claims

*What is my reasoning? A claim is true because -

*A claim is limited to -

# based in The Craft of Research, 4th Edition
By Booth, Colomb, Williams, Bizup and Fitzgerald

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