

# Five Questions Worksheet

## Research Planning + Research Argumentation

### Five Considerations for Research Planning<sup>#</sup>

#### 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 -**

<sup>#</sup> 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<sup>#</sup>

#### 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 -**

<sup>#</sup> based in *The Craft of Research*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition  
By Booth, Colomb, Williams, Bizup and Fitzgerald

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