Researching a Topic Worksheet

Step 1. Write down your broad topic idea.

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________________________________________________________________________

Step 2. List some of the aspects of your topic you might want to investigate. Below are two different approaches that you might try.

Approach #1: List one or more subtopics you wish to explore.

Subtopic: ____________________________________________________________________

Subtopic: ____________________________________________________________________

Subtopic: ____________________________________________________________________

Approach #2: List possible questions about your topic you might wish your research to focus on: Who? What? Where? Why? When? How?

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Step 3. Draft a possible thesis or problem statement.

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Step 4. Considering your thesis or problem statement, list as many terms as you can think of which might be useful in a subject or keyword search for materials. Consider synonyms and word variations.

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Step 5. Search for the citation of a book that relates to your topic.
Subject you searched: ______________________________________________

Author: __________________________________________________________

Title: ____________________________________________________________

Publisher: __________________________________________________________

Date of publication: ______________

Call number: ______________________________________________________

What other subject headings are suggested?

Step 6. Search a journal article database for a citation for an article on your topic.

Database you searched: ______________________________________________

Subject you searched: ______________________________________________

Article title: ______________________________________________________

Author(s) if given: _________________________________________________

Title of periodical: _________________________________________________

Volume number ______

Issue number (if any) ______

Page number(s) ________

Date: __________________________

Other useful subject headings or descriptors that were listed:

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