

Humboldt State University Library
Research Roadmap
Topics Worksheet

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? (Consult <http://library.humboldt.edu/infoservices/Handouts.htm/> for ideas)
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 or social aspects, impacts of gender or race, physical, psychological, or environmental aspects of your topic?)

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:

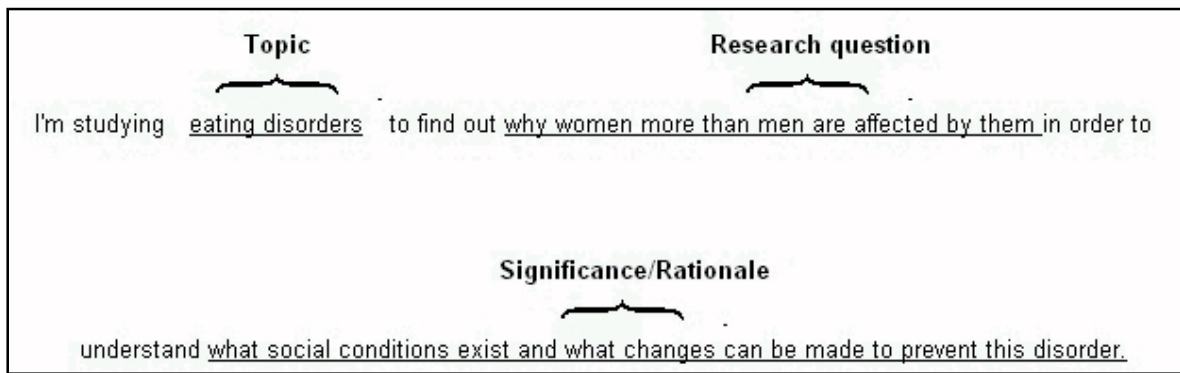
5. Write a topic definition statement (no more than 5 sentences, if possible)

A topic definition statement should do the following:

Provide background for the issues	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.
Summarize the purpose of your project and how you will accomplish it	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.
Include a “working title”	“Ethical Consumerism: Can It Make a Difference?”
Indicate questions to be answered	Key question: “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 questions that you will need to answer:

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:

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

BROADER:

RELATED:

NARROWER:

10. Write *at least 3* terms related to your third key concept, if you have one. (Follow the guidelines for broader, related, and narrower.)

BROADER:

RELATED:

NARROWER: