DEVELOPING YOUR RESEARCH TOPIC

This worksheet is designed to help you develop a thoughtful topic for your research assignment. Answer the following questions to help you better understand and refine your thinking about your research topic.

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<th>What research topic interests you?</th>
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<th>How did you become interested in this topic?</th>
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Think about the following elements of your topic:

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# Do background reading:

Search online library databases CQ Researcher, Points of View Reference Center, or Gale Virtual Reference Library to find basic background information about your topic and answer the questions below. Links to the online library resources mentioned above can be found on the Connelly Library website and in the [College Writing LibGuide](#).

## Did you identify any major concepts or theories related to your topic?

A good way to enter the conversation of a field or discipline is to study the vocabulary and theories. List the concepts or theories here:

## Define the basic terms used in this issue

Consider the varying ways that researchers define key terms. Do different people define or “see” things differently? Example: X defines “cyberdating” as ________, but Y explains it as ________, which includes implicit (or unconscious) bias.

## Could you identify any scholars or experts who do research on your topic?

They may be identified or listed as Further Resources. List the experts/scholars here:

## Did you find any additional keywords to use when you search?

Keywords change based on who is speaking, for example, a scholar might say “preadolescent,” whereas a journalist might use the word “tween.”

## Did the articles cite any useful sources that would be useful for your research?

List additional sources here:
Create a concept map or informational outline for your topic:

Using everything that you now know about your topic, create a concept map. To get started, look at the example concept map below.

**Example:** What can parents do to promote safe cyberdating for their teenagers.

**Concept/Keyword Mapping**

Write down anything related to your main idea. Anything! Everything!

**INTERNET**

*Social Media*

*CyberDating*

*Online Dating Apps*

*Snapchat*

*Teenage students*

Use these terms/keywords to search the databases