

# RESEARCH TEMPLATE

**Topic** - General area of interest:

Complete a **5W+H** chart -- should be done near the beginning of your research

Possible **Focus Questions** - try 3. These should be 3 different ways you could approach the topic.

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At some point early in your research, circle or highlight the one that seems like it will take you where you want to go.

Once you're oriented to the topic and what you want to do with it, you should have an idea how it can be divided or what key perspectives should be considered - what are the **Main Ideas** that arise from the topic and focus question(s) - try 3:

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Note: you can add additional Main Ideas or combine them later on in your research. In an essay, Main Ideas often turn into paragraphs or sets of paragraphs.

**Sources** - list the kinds of books, articles, documents, websites, people, collections, or other research that seem helpful:

Start a **bibliography** file, keep track on any source you used for research, quotes, or images. Use correct referencing techniques. Add to your file every time you find a source you intend to use.

Use all of the information gathered here to help address your driving question/s. From here, your research can move on to other steps, deepening on your goals or the project.

Complete a **6TC** chart - can be done later on into your research

Use the **5W+H** to plan your work and **6TC** to reflect on your work

**Using the Main Ideas** - Find least 1 secondary source from which you can gather information, form opinions, record facts, or gain perspective. A secondary source is written or made "after the fact" by comparing evidence gathered from an event, such as an account from a scholarly article or book, a credible website, or a credible news article. If the Main Idea is complicated, you'll want more than 1 secondary source. Sources can be used more than once.

**Main Idea 1** - Take some notes that help explain the main idea or answer your focus question. Secondary Source: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Idea 2 - Source 2.** Take some notes that help explain the main idea or answer your focus question. Source: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Idea 3 - additional notes or your own ideas you want to include**

**Primary Source 5.** Title or label: \_\_\_\_\_  
 What can you **observe**?  
 What can you **reflect** on?  
 What can you **question**?

**Primary Source 4.** Title or label: \_\_\_\_\_  
 What can you **observe**?  
 What can you **reflect** on?  
 What can you **question**?

**Primary Source 3.** Title or label: \_\_\_\_\_  
 What can you **observe**?  
 What can you **reflect** on?  
 What can you **question**?

**Primary Source 2.** Title or label: \_\_\_\_\_  
 What can you **observe**?  
 What can you **reflect** on?  
 What can you **question**?

**Primary Source 1.** Title or label: \_\_\_\_\_  
 What can you **observe**?  
 What can you **reflect** on?  
 What can you **question**?

Now that you have some main ideas sorted out, start looking for **primary source documents** to support your project. These are specific examples related to your topic such as photos, journal or diary entries, artifacts, recording, video, eyewitness accounts (quotes), government documents, etc. Sometimes a source can be both a primary and secondary source. Find at least five sources that relate to your topic. Use a Guide to Interpreting Primary Source Evidence to analyze each one. **Observe:** e.g. what do you notice about the source? Are there parts you can explain? Can't explain? **Reflect:** e.g. Where do you think it came from? Why do you think it was made? How? For whom? **Question:** e.g. probe deeper -- what perspectives does it show? does it raise any issues? what can be learned from it?