Thinking About Research and Writing

I am writing about…

I want to find out…

I want my readers to understand…

This is important because…

# Thinking About Your Assignment

What skill or knowledge does your instructor want you to demonstrate?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Paper</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Argumentative (Persuasive) Paper</strong></td>
<td>Makes a claim about a topic and justifies the claim with evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analytical Paper</strong></td>
<td>Breaks down an issue or idea into its parts, evaluates it and presents the analysis to the reader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expository (Explanatory Paper)</strong></td>
<td>Builds an idea or issue, explaining its details to the audience.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Length of paper: __________ Words  __________ Pages

Citation Style

- [ ] APA
- [ ] Chicago
- [ ] MLA
- [ ] Other ______________________

What types of sources do you need to find for your research?

- [ ] Books
- [ ] Journal Articles
- [ ] Primary Sources
- [ ] Government Documents
- [ ] Statistical Data
- [ ] Other ______________________

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K. Feenstra, 2016.
Learning More About Your Topic

It is helpful to learn some basic information about your topic before you start searching for books, articles and other research material. Doing this will save you time and make it easier find sources of information that are relevant. Here are some places you can start.

Sources you already have.
- Textbooks
- Course Readings
- Lecture Notes

Library Resources
- Credo Reference (Online)
- Encyclopaedias
- Dictionaries
- Biographical Dictionaries

While you are reading about your topic keep a list of significant vocabulary that you can use to search the library catalogue. You can do this with a concept map. See the example below.

Create your own concept map using the template on the next page.
Brainstorming With Your Own Concept Map

1. Write down your topic or main question in the centre of the page.
2. Draw branches to the main sub topics you found in course readings, textbooks and library reference sources.
3. As you read add subordinate ideas to your concept map. Only include information that is relevant to your research.
Organizing Information for Research

Based on your concept map choose what sub-topics you will research more closely. Choose sub-topics that will help you answer your research question from page one. Write down any questions you have about each of your sub-topics. If you are not sure what direction to take with your research you can discuss these questions with your instructor.

I am writing about…

I want to find out…

Sub-Topic A

Questions I have…

Sub-Topic B

Questions I have…

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Sub-Topic C

Questions I have…

Sub-Topic D

Questions I have…

Sub-Topic E

Questions I have…