

NAME _____ Teacher _____ Period _____

RESEARCH FOCUS and KEYWORDS

1. What is your topic? _____
2. What are your possible focuses for your thesis?

3. List **initial** search keywords for your possible focuses which will help you find good articles to become familiar with your topic/focus: _____

4. Identify **additional** good keywords/keyword combinations discovered **during research**: _____

DATABASE SOURCES

Check off each source after you have completed searching it.

A. MAGAZINE AND NEWS ARTICLES: Identify **3 online databases** that you think will provide good *magazine or newspaper* articles on your topic or focus. Explain *why* you chose each one.

- 1: _____ Why? _____
- 2: _____ Why? _____
- 3: _____ Why? _____

B. REFERENCE SOURCES: Identify **3 online databases** that you think will provide relevant reference information on your topic. Explain *why* you chose each one.

- 1: _____ Why? _____
- 2: _____ Why? _____
- 3: _____ Why? _____

****If your choices above did not give good results, identify which databases you ended up searching and finding relevant information on your topic. _____**

Remember to identify the TYPE of article (magazine, journal, newspaper, reference, etc) on your Works Cited/Note-sheet. You will need this info to create your citations properly.

RESEARCH PROCESS REFLECTIONS

On this sheet record your answers to the reflection questions about **YOUR** experience with the research process and the skills we practiced each day. Also add any observations you made about the research process while you were researching.

For example: *“Reviewing good note-taking techniques really helped me do a better job on my note-sheets. They were more organized and easier to read and it made writing my paper easier.”*

Reflection Question: How did the research skill you learned/practiced each day help make **your** research easier, higher quality or take less time?

DAY 1 – CYBRARY: Research planning and identifying possible databases to search

DAY 2 – CYBRARY: Identifying good keywords/search features in databases

DAY 3 – CYBRARY: Finding and evaluating web pages

DAY 4 – CYBRARY: Note-taking/anti-plagiarism techniques

DAY 5 – CYBRARY: Using the online library catalog to find print materials

DAY 6-8 – MEDIA CENTER: Asssesing/Researching with print sources

William Annin Middle School
8th Grade Lit Connections RESEARCH PLAN/CHECKLIST

REFLECTING ON YOUR THESIS: Did your thesis/focus change based on information you read? In what way did it change? Be specific.

What research skill(s) do YOU feel you use effectively? Why?

What research skill(s) do YOU feel you need to improve? How might you work to improve that skill(s)?