

Developing a Topic, Question, and Problem

Instructions: Work with a partner on this side of the worksheet. The topic has already been filled out for you.

Topic/What you're writing about:

I am studying/working on... *romantic love in media.*

Question/What you don't know about your topic:

With your partner, brainstorm at least five questions you could ask about this topic. For tips on ways to come up with/ask questions, see Booth et al p. 39-41.

Because I want to find out who/what/when/where/whether/why/how...

After you have at least five questions, evaluate them with your partner (see Booth et al p. 42). Select your best question and write it here.

Problem/Why you want your reader to care about your topic

With your partner, ask, "So what?" What practical or conceptual problem could answering your question help solve?

In order to help my reader understand how/why/whether...

Instructions: Work independently on this side of the worksheet to develop your thesis topic, question, and problem.

Topic/What you're writing about:

I am studying/working on...

Question/What you don't know about your topic:

Brainstorm at least five questions you could ask about this topic. For tips on ways to come up with/ask questions, see Booth et al p. 39-41.

Because I want to find out who/what/when/where/whether/why/how...

After you have at least five questions, evaluate them (see Booth et al p. 42). Select your best question and write it here.

Problem/Why you want your reader to care about your topic

Ask, "So what?" What practical or conceptual problem could answering your question help solve?

In order to help my reader understand how/why/whether...

