

Name:
Instructor:
Course:

Research Toolkit Define Topic

1. What topic are you researching?

2. What do you know about this topic? Use the background reference sources listed under section I. **Define Topic** on the Toolkit web site to help you answer these questions:
 - a. **What?** What is your topic about? Provide a 2-3 sentence explanation:

 - b. **Where?** Does this topic fit into a local, regional, or global scheme? Is there a particular physical environment for this topic?

 - c. **When?** Is there a certain time frame when this topic became important or experienced change? Do you want to research the current or historical view of this topic?

 - d. **Who?** Specific names or groups of people involved; consider gender, ethnicity, age groups, occupations, etc. Who does this topic affect?

 - e. **Why?** Why is this topic important? Why are you interested in researching this topic?

 - f. **How?** How do aspects of this topic affect one another? How does this topic affect you and others? If this topic involves a process, how do aspects of this topic function?

3. What would you like to find out about this topic? What questions do you have?

4. List primary keywords or phrases that may help you find more information on your topic:

5. List the source(s) you used to find background information. For print sources, give title, call number, volume, and page number. For online sources, give database name and keywords used.