

## Feeder 1.1: Preliminary Research Worksheet

**Directions: Please complete the following worksheet using complete sentences. In your final draft, you can include the questions or simply provide clearly numbered/labeled answers to each question. There are 7 questions total; don't overlook the second page of this document.**

1. Start by brainstorming potential topics and narrowing down to one specific topic:
  - a. Name three current health or medical topics/controversies that interest you. What do you find interesting about them? BE SPECIFIC. Write a brief, bulleted list for each topic.
  - b. Select **one** of those topics/controversies from Question 1 and state it here. (You don't have to repeat your bulleted list; just make it clear which topic you're choosing.) (Examples of specific topics might be "caramel color in soda," "local food products used at Rise Donuts Carrboro," etc., NOT something as broad as "breast cancer in young women.")
2. Now that you've chosen a single topic, do a Google web search on your topic using the "News" button. Describe what seems to be the latest news, discoveries, findings, etc. about your topic in one solid paragraph. (A solid paragraph is a minimum of five sentences.)
3. Go to the library website homepage (<http://library.unc.edu/>) and click on the Google Scholar button. (Do NOT just go to Google Scholar; access it via the UNC Libraries). Search for your topic. (Note: You may have to log in with your ONYEN and password.) Click through the first few pages of results. What seems to be the most heavily cited sources on your topic? Adjust the timeline on the left so that your search limits the articles from 2015 to 2021. Quickly peruse some of these articles. What journals seem to be publishing about this topic? What seems to be the latest findings? What subtopics/areas are scientists, doctors, health practitioners, etc. studying most? What types of sources are you finding (such as recently published books, articles, responses to other people's articles, etc.)? What ethical problems seem to arise when talking about this topic? What is particularly controversial about it? Respond in 1-2 solid paragraphs.
4. Now write a short paragraph describing your more specific topic and provide CSE-style (8<sup>th</sup> edition, name-year format) bibliographic citations for two peer-reviewed journal articles that discuss this topic. Both of these should have been published no earlier than 2015. Ideally, one of these will be an experimental study (or maybe an observational study) that serves as the focus of your work moving forward. (Remember, the goal of this feeder overall is to get familiar with the general conversation taking place around your topic and to eventually narrow in on one specific study you will discuss. Either of the studies you list here should be possibilities for your work moving forward.)

**Now, let's think about how we might explain this information to different audiences:**

5. If you were to talk about this topic with your roommate or a close friend, what would you say? Literally, what would you say to this person? Write a short sample paragraph.
6. If you were to write about this topic in an article for *Science Daily* (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/>), how would you explain it? (Note: This necessitates that you look at what *Science Daily* is, see who the audience is, see what kinds of articles and materials they

are publishing, etc.). Write a short sample paragraph. (Hint: This will be more formal than your response to the preceding question.)

7. Return to the articles you cited for question #4. Now choose one specific, scholarly, peer-reviewed article (from 2015-2021) that reports on an experimental (or maybe observational) study related to your topic. This article will be the focus of your work moving forward:
  - a. State the title of the peer-reviewed journal article, the year of its publication, the year(s) during which the actual study or experiment was conducted, the publication (the name of the journal, not the database) in which this article appears, and the names of all of the article's authors. Include also the affiliation of the authors and/or the study. (For example, are they researchers at X University or working for ABC Research Group, etc.?)
  - b. Provide a full, accurate CSE-style (8<sup>th</sup> edition, name-year format) bibliographic citation for this article.
  - c. In a phrase, what is the topic of this article?
  - d. Sum up the topic, hypothesis, and main point(s) or findings of this article in 2-5 sentences.