

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 seven questions total; don't overlook the second page of this document.

1. 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.

2. Select **one** of those topics/controversies from Question 1 and state it at the beginning of your answer for this question. (You don't have to repeat your bulleted list; just make it clear which topic you're choosing.) Then do a quick Google (web) search on it. Read the first five articles/websites/sources that you find, and write a 2-4 sentence summary of each one. (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.") Your summary should answer the following questions:

- 1) What type of source is this? Scholarly, popular, hybrid? Website? Blog post? Journal article?
- 2) What is the author(s)'s main argument and/or point?
- 3) Does this source seem "legitimate" to you? Why would you choose to accept or reject the credibility of this source?
- 4) Why might readers choose to accept this source as "fact"? Why not?

3. Revise your search by selecting 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.)

4. Go to the library website homepage (<http://library.unc.edu/>) and click on the Google Scholar button. 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 paragraphs.

5. Now write a short paragraph describing your more specific topic and provide CSE-style (8th 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.

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

6. If you were to talk about this topic with your roommate or a close friend, what would you say? Write a short sample paragraph.

7. 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.)