

Research Brainstorm Worksheet

Course: _____

Paper Due Date: _____

Word Count or Page Limit: _____

Number of Sources Required: _____

Citation Style (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.): _____

Research Paper Steps

1. Evaluate the prompt
2. Create a Thesis Statement
3. Research
4. Group Your Research
5. Outline
6. Write
7. Revise
8. Edit

Pre-Research Brainstorming

1. Research topic or prompt:

Sample Prompt: Critically analyze (i.e., consider all perspectives involved) a problem or controversy of your choice in the history of biomedicine. Situate this problem or dispute within the more significant trajectory of the history of biomedicine and provide historical background for the ideas, people, and technologies involved.

2. What does the prompt/assignment ask you as the writer to do?

Example (Cont.): Select a topic in the field specified (Biomedicine) and address more than one perspective in the paper while also providing historical context. Examples could include how views have changed over time and the historical reasons for the change in beliefs.

3. Why is my topic/research important?

Example (Cont.): My research topic is how Norplant was pushed on vulnerable populations by legislators and judges in the 1990s to demonstrate how the 20th-century American eugenics movement persists in contemporary America.

4. What background information does my reader need to know to understand my paper or the context of my topic?

Example (Cont.): To understand my paper, a reader needs some background on the 20th-century American eugenics movement, what Norplant is, a definition of what I consider to be a vulnerable population, and how it connects to contemporary America (why it matters).

5. What keywords, phrases, people, or topics might you need to mention or define in your essay for a reader unfamiliar with your topic?

Examples (Cont.): Eugenics, Norplant, Biomedicine, Birth Control, Coercion, Frances Galton, Marginalized, Vulnerable Populations, Informed Consent.

Pro-tip: Step 5 can help determine what to include in your thesis statement. A thesis statement can change as you conduct research, but your thesis statement must be arguable and supported by your research.

6. Thesis statement:

Example (Cont.): This paper demonstrates how various levels of government attempted to coerce marginalized groups to use Norplant in the 1990s and how it relates to the early 20th-century eugenics movement in contemporary America.