**The Definition Essay Research Process Exercise Sheet**

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| **1** | **Choose your topic.** |
| **What is the assignment?**  Requirements?# of sources Kind of sources | **What is your possible definition ?**Are you interested in it? Is it the right size (too big/too small)?Have you thought through the “w” questions that relate to your word to be defined?  |
| **2** | **Brainstorm about your definition.** |
|  | Word/Phrase to be defined |  |
|  | **Is** or **Is not** |  |
| Definition: |  |  |
|  | **Because** |  |
| Supporting criteria 1: | Supporting criteria 2: | Supporting criteria 3: |
| **3.** | **Create a search strategy.** |
|  | Use a concept map to match the **most important** words from the “brainstorming” to you topic and the type of essay you need to write. Nouns, Verbs and 2 word phrases.Suggestions:Concept mapper (<http://www.nwmissouri.edu/library/courses/research/conceptMap.html>) (source is Northwest Missouri State)Spicynodes ( <http://www.spicynodes.org/index.html>)Text2Mindmap (http://www.text2mindmap.com)Bubblus (<https://bubbl.us/>) or Dabbleboard (<http://www.dabbleboard.com/>) |
| **4** | **Find resources.** |
| **Books****Libros****WorldCat****Other** | **Articles****Issues & Controversies, Points of View, etc.****Academic Search Complete, ProQuest, etc****Other Subject databses** | **Websites****Google****GoogleScholar****Bing** |
| Call Numbers/Title: | Articles: | URLS: |
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| **5** | **Evaluate your resource (TRAP).** |
| **Timeliness** | **Relevance** | **Authority** | **Purpose** |
| When was this published?Is the information on the page time sensitive?How important is "current" to the topic?Does the date of the information affect its accuracy? | Does this meet the needs of my assignment? Is it on my topic? How deeply is my topic covered in this source?Is the information accurate?How would I use this source? | Who is author?Is the author credible?Is the publishing organization credible? | Who is the audience?Why was this written/published?Does it show bias?  |
| **6** | **Use the source.** |
|  | **Write a paraphrase or quote and cite the item using the appropriate style manual.** |