**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.** | | | | | | | | |