

Appendix D: Templates and Organizers

Examining Your Question

Begin with **Your Question** but don't think of it as static. The question should evolve as your research progresses. In fact, it will likely change as you gather enough information to complete this worksheet.

Now consider the **Context and Significance** of your question. What is the context of your question? Why is it a question worth exploring? What importance does it have and to whom or what?

If this is a question worth exploring, other voices are offering **Genuine Points of Ongoing Debate**. Remember that those voices don't have to contradict each other; they should make claims and offer evidence in support of those claims. What are some of those claims and how do they relate to each other? How will they help you answer **Your Question**?

You have probably already determined that not all the voices you've found are really relevant to your question and those should be kept in your research log but they don't belong here. The **Relevant, Credible Sources** you list and justify here need to be explicitly linked to your question and be worthy of your using them.

Whether you consider your question through **Multiple Lenses or Perspectives**, you must find different ways to analyze, or break down, your question. The voices of the **Ongoing Debate** might be a starting point but you must differentiate between them and specify the **Lenses or Perspectives** through which you will work to answer **Your Question**.

Like **Your Question**, your Plan – Organization might change but the sooner you have a **Plan** to answer **Your Question**, the more likely you are to do so. Your **Organization** should make your line of reasoning clear. How should the parts fit to come to a logical conclusion or judgment?

The conclusion or judgment to which you finally come may or may not be the same as this original **Anticipated Judgment** but you need to hear yourself answer **Your Question**. Is any research actually required to **Anticipate a Judgment**? If not, you've got the wrong question. This **Anticipated Judgment** will be tested and you should return to it often as you research to see how your original thinking has been impacted by your research.

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