

# RESEARCH WORKSHEET

Adapted from York County Community College Library's "Research Game Plan" <http://virtual.yccc.edu/tutorials>

**1. State your research topic/question.** Tip: Your topic should not just be a noun (diabetes, WWII, etc.).

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**2. Identify the main concepts within your research topic/question.**

Tip: Use one word or phrase per box.

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**3. Brainstorm synonyms, alternate spellings, and related topics for each concept.**

Possible sources for ideas: Credo Reference database, dictionaries, Wikipedia, textbook, concept map, etc.

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**4. Determine the kind(s) of information you need. Check all the boxes below that apply.**

	<i>Background information</i>		<i>Historical information</i>
	<i>Biographical information</i>		<i>Opinions</i>
	<i>Criticism or analysis</i>		<i>Statistics</i>
	<i>Current events</i>		<i>Research results</i>
	<i>Financial information</i>		<i>Other?</i>

**5. Use words from #2 and #3 to search using Discovery@Tarleton (linked on library's homepage). Then, try your searches using ProQuest (linked on library's Databases: A-Z page).**

**6. To choose specific databases, go to the library's homepage ([www.tarleton.edu/library](http://www.tarleton.edu/library)).**

- a. Click "Subject Guides" (gray tab over basic search box or under "Research" in navigation bar).
- b. Select 2 possible subjects that fit your topic. Write the subjects below.
- c. Click each of these subject (ex: Math & Art). Pick at least 2 databases and write their names below.

<i>Subject #1</i>	<i>Database #1</i>
<i>Subject #2</i>	<i>Database #2</i>

**7. Use words from #2 and #3 to search in the databases listed in #6.**

Tips: All databases are linked on the library's "Databases A-Z" page. Keep a research log and/or research notes.

**8. As you learn more about your topic, refine your research question, try different search words, and explore various databases.** Tip: Be willing to look again and dig deeper.

**When you need assistance, contact your librarians!**

**reference@tarleton.edu | Dick Smith Library: 254-968-9249 | Texan Hall Library: 817-717-3315**