

Worksheet: Researching your Essay!

This worksheet can help you get started on your essay.

Following Steps 1–3 will help you:

- Understand your research question
- Define the key concepts
- Identify the resources which will help you produce a high-quality essay

Step 1

Take time to consider your essay question in detail.

Tip: Try writing it out in your own words so that you are sure you understand it fully.

Brainstorm your initial thoughts about the essay.

Tip: Don't be afraid to brainstorm all of your ideas; you can always refine or abandon things which don't work out.

Step 2

Make a list of the key **concepts** underpinning the essay title.

Tip: Start by picking out the most important words from the title – you can ignore ‘a’, ‘the’, ‘of’, etc.

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Now make a list of key **words** that you will use to search Library Discovery and other databases.

Tip: Do any of your key words have synonyms (i.e. words or phrases that mean exactly or nearly the same as your key words).

| <u>Key Word</u> | <u>Synonym (1)</u> | <u>Synonym (2)</u> |
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Step 3

What other resources are you planning to use? Do you know how to use them properly?

Tip: Don't just rely on Google and/or Wikipedia! Check your Subject Guide on the Library website for a list of relevant academic databases.

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