As you conduct research, you will need to continually update your research plan, research question, purpose statement, driving questions, and key concepts.

**Part 1: Your Initial Questions.** To begin, write a list of ten or more initial questions about your key concept. These questions can be about the relationship between the concept(s) and other concepts, the definition of the concept(s), the history of this concept(s), the theory and practice of this concept in your field, etc.

**Write your research question here:**

**Part 2: Your Exigence:** Every research project is usually prompted by three underlying motivations. The personal exigence is the reason why you as the researcher are interested and invested in conducting this research project. The social exigence is the social problem that your field is grappling with and attempting to understand and solve. And the research exigence is usually a gap in the current research conversation that scholars in your field have not yet been able to address. Try to articulate these three exigencies for your own project. They will change and evolve with your research, so keep updating them as your thinking becomes clearer.

1. **Personal exigence:**
2. **Social exigence:**
3. **\*Research exigence:**

\*You will not know the research exigence at the beginning of your project. You can wait to fill this out until you’ve done more research.

**Part 3: Your Purpose Statement:** Fill in the underlined sections in the sentence below with information related to your project. You might want to review your research question and exigence and use them to help you complete this statement.

I am studying (or researching) [object of study] because I want to find out [relevance].

**Part 6: Source Summaries:** Fill out the form below with information about the work other scholars have done and how this work contributes to your project.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title of author’s project** | **Author name and date of publication** | **Project’s Exigence**  \*describe in one paragraph | **Project’s Main Findings** | **Project’s Relevance/New Offering**  \*describe in two or three sentences  \*Why is this study important? What does it contribute to the wall of knowledge? | **How does this source help answer your research question or driving questions?**  \*answer in one paragraph |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **General observations and analysis**  *\*What do you notice are similarities across these sources* |  |  |  |  |  |

**Part 7: Your new offering:** Every research project, whether primary or secondary research, contributes one tiny (or groundbreaking) brick to the wall of knowledge. As you work to answer your research question and gain an understanding of the research conversation, what do you think your new offering might be? The new offering usually addresses the research or social exigence either implicitly or explicitly. It is also very much a part of your relevance. It answers the “so what? who cares?” question that all researchers attempt to address as they conclude their project.