Starting Your Graduate Research Handout

What is your topic?

What is your working title?

What is your research question?

Do you have any secondary questions related to your main research question?

What is your hypothesis?

Why are you interested in this topic?

Why would others be interested in this topic?

Has this research question been asked by anyone else? How do you know?

What resources can you use for library research in order to investigate the history of research into this topic?

Brainstorm: try to identify as many resources as possible:

Have you talked with your advisor about this research? If so what was her/his response?

What theories are you interested in?

Brainstorm different methods you can use to find answers to your research question:

Preliminary research:

Have you begun preliminary research? Where did you search for your secondary sources?

Creating Keywords for Search Engine Queries:

Write your research question:

Identify research question keywords:

From your research question keywords list as many possible alternative keywords (use MS Word’s synonym function, or use Thesaurus.com):