

Name _____ Date Due _____

Class _____

Library Guides: Frontiers in Biology

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Developed by Connie Fly, Librarian

 [Printer-friendly version](#) [Research Process Part 1B Worksheet](#) (.PDF version)

2. Complete COS Library Planner Worksheet by:

- A. Defining Your Topic
 - B. Developing a "Glossary of Terms" of unfamiliar words
 - C. Researching the history of your subject. Write a descriptive paragraph on the history including how science on the subject has evolved over time. A timeline is a good way to illustrate this.
 - D. Writing at least one question concerning statistics and/or demographics on your topic and attempt to locate the answer(s) using reference and non-fiction book sources.
 - E. Listing all books used to locate your information in MLA Format.
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THE RESEARCH PROCESS Part 1B

Writing Questions

In thinking about how to organize your research and what information should be included you should begin by referring to the Research Outline on your [class homepage](http://cos.edu/library/sellers/researchposterproject.htm) at <http://cos.edu/library/sellers/researchposterproject.htm>. This lists all the components required for your power point presentation.

Why write questions? First of all questions require an answer, something that you as the writer have to answer to your own satisfaction but more importantly to the reader's satisfaction. Consider who your audience is and what types of questions they would be likely to ask you about your topic. Questions and answers also help keep you focused so that you don't go wandering off into subject areas that are not appropriate. It is all right not to answer all your questions now as you will have further opportunities for research and resources to refer to in future assignments.

Definition

Defining your topic requires you to think critically about your topic and ask questions you will need to answer. To define your topic refer to your textbook and or reference books such as subject dictionaries and encyclopedias located in the Reference Section on the First Floor of the COS Library. Refer to this list of [COS Library Reference Books](#) for ones that will be especially appropriate for science topics. A definition should be two sentences to a paragraph long.

Highlight or circle any words in the definition you do not understand and locate and write down their definitions.

Question:

What is the definition of _____?

Answer:

Words in the definition that I do not understand are listed and defined below.

Books used to define my topic are?

HISTORY

Most of the time questions that cover the history of a subject can be answered in subject encyclopedias, other specialized books located in the Library Reference Section, or the non-fiction book collection. Understanding the history of a subject gives you a fuller understanding of your topic to include how science has advanced in solving problems surrounding your topic. Write a short paragraph on the history of your topic and plan to expand on it as you learn more about your topic. See if eventually you can locate a timeline. *However, remember that the history component of your project should be fairly brief.* Here is the type of questions to ask and answer.

Question: What is the history of ?

Answer:

Question: How has science changed and improved over time?

Answer:

Question: Is there a timeline?

Answer:

Books Used to develop the history of my topic are?

Demographics and Statistics

Now that you have defined your topic, look for statistics that tell demographic information about your topic such as ages, culture, and incidence of the problem, and geographic locations. Referring to statistical sources, specialized reference and non-fiction books is once again the best place to look first. *Write questions below with their answers if you can find them.* If you are unsuccessful in answering all of your questions now, in the next couple of weeks we will be exploring other research sources that may provide the information you need. So make note where you need to find additional information.

Books used to locate statistical information are?



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21

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