***Research Investigation Planning Sheet for Format/Template***

**State Research Question** – Title of the investigation that is being conducted.

**State Claim –** Chosen claim for investigation

**Rationale**

* Introduction to the topic.
* Must link the research question to the claim – the rationale must have information which leads to the formation of the research question.
* This is where you could discuss a study, organisation or company that is highlighting your claim. No data is discussed here.

*Sentence Starters*

* *There are several aspects to the investigation to be examined, especially ……*
* *The factors that contribute to this situation include ………*
* *The main effect of …… is …….*
* *The main reason that ……… occurs is ……*
* *The issue has had an impact on …..*
* *There are several reasons for ……..*
* *……….. has multiple causes which include ……..*
* *To determine whether …..*

**The Research Question**

* Restate research question.
* State the studies (should be at least 2 or 3 studies that contain good data to back your claim) and what their study was about that relate to your research question/claim.

*Sentence Starters*

* *This review will use three studies from …….. that have been undertaken to determine ……*
* *The results of these studies will be compiled to investigate ……..*
* *The significant points that appear include …….*
* *The five main ideas from the text are ……*
* *The essence of the investigation is ……*

**Background**

* Discuss information that is surrounding your claim. Can state statistics, but no ‘big’ data yet.
* Definitions relevant to the topic.
* Ensure the research question and the claim are linked.

*Sentence Starters*

* *………. Has a number of distinguishing/notable features, including ……*
* *The key features of ……… are ……*
* *………..comprises/is composed of/ consists of ……….*
* *The most significant elements of …….. include ……….*

**Analysis and interpretation**

* State who compiled the data
* Discuss the method used to collate the data
* Show the graphs/tables/diagrams used in the investigation
* Explain the trends/relationships that the data shows
* Analyse the data in more detail
* Does the data back up your research question? Ensure you have reasonable scientific arguments.
* Were there any limitations? You will need to identify limitations of evidence and thoroughly discuss these.
* You may need to put information together from several studies and place in a table.

Therefore, in this section you need, tables and graphs that show data that is relevant to your research question and you must analyse the data for relationships and justify your research question using examples from your data.

*Sentence Starters*

* *A detailed examination shows ……*
* *The diagram/table/graph provides additional information to the text, especially as it shows …..*
* *Important though ……. Is , it is not the most relevant factor in …….*
* *The main similarities/differences between …… and …… are …..*
* *There is a complex relationship between ….. and …..*
* *The graph/table/result showed/revealed that …..*
* *The data revealed the following trends …..*
* *The data revealed a strong connection between …..*
* *There is very little relationship between ….. and …..*
* *Specific differences exist between ….. and …..*
* *The similarities between ….. and ….. are more relevant than the differences.*
* *This is similar to …..*
* *The most obvious feature of ….. is …..*
* *The most significant elements of ….. include …..*
* *Other less important features are …..*
* *The main reason that ….. occurs is …..*
* *There are anomalies; however, a general pattern emerges which is …..*
* *The data reveals the following trends:*
* *The table/graph supports the information in the text by …..*
* *….. is well supported by the evidence which states that …..*
* *There are many reasons for …..*
* *The weight of evidence would suggest that …..*
* *The graph shows that …..*
* *It is clear from the table that …..*
* *Compared with the data in Table A, the data in Table B shows …..*
* *….. can be supported by the information in Graph A.*
* *However, not all factors were tested …..*
* *Limitations of the studies included ……*
* *Some data was excluded because …..*

**Conclusion and evaluation**

Reviewing the literature sources

* Compare the evidence from all three sources.
* Looking at your three studies and showing how they differ, did they study different years or different sections/factors or did they use different statistics or methods to gain their information?
* Is the data reliable and valid (this must be factual and not your opinion). Is there consistency with the results? Was the research question answered?

*Sentence Starters*

* *Three studies were chosen in an attempt to ……*
* *This limits the ability to compare the results due to ……*
* *The consistency of results in the three papers leads to …..*
* *It is the lack of consistent results in the three papers that leads to …..*
* *Two of the papers used different techniques ……*
* *There is a great deal of evidence to support …..*
* *Clearly, it can be concluded that …..*
* *Thus, in summary, …..*

Overall results

* A summary of your results and whether or not your claim/research question is conclusive? Is it refuted or accepted?
* Were the data collection methods appropriate?
* Were fair tests conducted?
* Is the sample space large enough to give reliability?
* What limits the data from being reliable?

*Sentence Starters*

* *The evidence collected allows the following conclusions to be made …..*
* *There are significant advantages/disadvantages with …..*
* *There are several flaws in the study such as …..*
* *There is very little evidence that …..*
* *All the evidence suggests …..*
* *Several sources have been used to create …..*
* *All evidence and supporting documentation points to …..*
* *Research has enabled the following conclusion to be reached …..*

Further Investigations required

* What other studies could be carried out to help increase the validity of your claim? What specific studies could be carried out to help investigate your research question?
* What would be your suggested improvements?
* What are the possible future/long term implications of the investigations?

*Sentence Starters*

* *There are more details to be examined and these include …..*
* *Improvements might include …..*
* *It could be recommended that …..*
* *It would appear reasonable to conclude that ….., and therefore recommend …..*
* *Based on the findings, the following recommendations can be made.*
* *The following recommendations, listed in order of priority, are put forward for consideration:*
* *For the future, it is recommended that …..*
* *A list of the proposed recommendations with a summary of the reasons for each follows:*

**Reference List**

* Ensure you reference your work in your research assignment as you write it.
* A complete list of resources in alphabetical order you accessed for your investigation.