

Craft of Research by Colomb, Williams, &  
Booth[1]  
Project Formation Rubric

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*I write to Remember, Understand, & Test my Thinking*

# 1 The Question

## 1.1 Topic

The topic needs to be a full sentence The claim needs to be a full sentence, and lead somewhere.

The topic is...	
The claim is...	

The topic's history...	
Has developed in what way?	
Why did it develop in that way?	

The topic's structure and context...	
allows it to fit into a larger structure by?	
allow it to function as a system?	

The topic's categorization...	
means objects are grouped by?	
compare and contrast objects?	

The negation of the proposed claim...	
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How can I play and speculate about the semantics of my topic	
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I can....	
Extend the argument of the topic's sources?	
Support the sources claim with new evidence?	
Ask analogous questions?	
Negate a sources claim?	

## 1.2 Question

Does my question ask a...	
How or why question?	
Is the question purely speculative?	
The answer is a dead end?	

I am trying to learn about/working on/studying	
Because I want to find out who/what/when/where/whether/why/how	
So what?	

## 1.3 Problem

Practical problem	
Situation	
Consequences	
What should we do about it?	

Conceptual problem	
Situation	
Consequences (The ignorance)	
The second question	

## 1.4 Conclusion

Am I...	
Presenting new information	
Presenting a solution to a problem	
Answering an important question	

## 2 The Reader

*The reader needs to be entertained, aided in solving a problem, & given better understanding*

Is the reader a...	
Professional	
Well informed general reader	
General reader	

The reader wants to be...	
Entertained	
Aided in solving the problem	
Understand something better	

The reader...	
Needs to be made understand that the problem is there's	
Must be convinced that the problem is serious	
Needs to be made to recognize the problem	
Knows this about the topic	

My claim...	
Contradict their beliefs	
Will engender these responses	
Will require these steps to be convincing	

## References

- [1] W.C. Booth, G.G. Colomb, and J.M. Williams. *The Craft of Research, Third Edition*. Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing. University of Chicago Press, 2009.