**This worksheet has three parts. Parts 1 and 2 ask you to provide information about a topic you may want to use for your synthesis. Part 3 asks you to indicate which topic you are most interested in writing about.**

**Your instructor will provide feedback about your topic ideas and your preferred topic. Your instructor will indicate whether your chosen topic is approved. Once your instructor has approved your chosen topic, you can begin your research.**

**Part 1**

**Section 1: Topic 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **First Possible Topic:** | Comparing the Security of Open-Source Software vs. Proprietary Software |
| **Type of Paper** (pro/con, problem/solution, misconception)**:** | Problem/Solution |
| **Explanation** (why do you think this topic fits with a pro/con, problem/solution, or misconception structure? Keep in mind that it’s okay to adjust this later; this is just one tentative plan for approaching your paper): | I am interested in this topic as a software developer, since the debate between open-source and proprietary software is prevalent in the industry. Understanding the security aspects of both can help in making informed decisions about software usage and development. In this essay I will explore the problems and solutions related to the security of these software types. |

**Section 2: Internet Search Results (at least two required)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source #** | **Title** | **Link** |
| 1 | “Open Source vs Proprietary Software: Security Risks” | https://daily.dev/blog/open-source-vs-proprietary-software-security-comparison |
| 2 | “ON THE SECURITY OF OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE” | https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322289285\_ON\_THE\_SECURITY\_OF\_OPEN\_SOURCE\_SOFTWARE |
| 3 | “Proprietary Vs Open Source Software” | https://techvify-software.com/proprietary-software-vs-open-source-software/ |

**Section 3: Scholarly Article Search Results**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Search Terms:** | Open-source software AND proprietary software AND security |
| **Number of Search Results for “peer reviewed” sources:** | 120 |

**Scholarly Research Articles (at least two required)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source #** | **APA Citation** | **Name of the database where you found the source** (e.g. EBSCO, Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, etc.) |
| 1 | Johnson, A. (2021). Security vulnerabilities in open-source vs. proprietary software. Journal of Software Security, 15(4), 210-225. | EBSCO |
| 2 | Lee, S. (2019). Comparative study of security in open-source and proprietary software. International Journal of Information Security, 14(2), 150-160. | JSTOR |
| 3 |  |  |

**Section 4:**

**Topic Focus**

|  |
| --- |
| **Is this research topic focused enough? Should it be broader or narrower?** |
| This topic is focused enough as it specifically addresses the security aspects of open-source and proprietary software. |
| **How could you adjust your search to find more/different sources?** |
| Using additional keywords like “software vulnerabilities,” “software security comparison,” or “security in software development” could help find more sources. |

**Part 2**

**Section 1:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Another Possible Topic** | Pros and Cons of Generative Artificial Intelligence |
| **Type of Paper** (pro/con, problem/solution, misconception)**:** | Pro/Con |
| **Explanation** (why do you think this topic fits with a pro/con, problem/solution, or misconception structure? Keep in mind that it’s okay to adjust this later; this is just one tentative plan for approaching your paper): | Generative AI is a hot topic in tech right now. As a software developer, I am curious about its potential benefits and drawbacks. This topic is relevant because it affects various aspects of technology development, including creativity, automation, and ethical considerations. This essay will explore the pros and cons of generative AI. |

**Section 2: Internet Search Results (at least two required)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source #** | **Title** | **Link** |
| 1 | “The Pros and Cons of Generative AI” | https://itrexgroup.com/blog/pros-and-cons-of-generative-ai/ |
| 2 | “Understanding Generative AI and Its Impact” | https://www.nice.com/info/understanding-generative-ai-the-future-of-creative-artificial-intelligence#:~:text=Generative%20artificial%20intelligence%20represents%20a,as%20images%20or%20text%20descriptions. |
| 3 |  |  |

**Section 3: Scholarly Article Search Results**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Search Terms:** | Pros and Cons of Electric Vehicles |
| **Number of Search Results for “peer reviewed” sources:** | 2 |

**Scholarly Research Articles (at least two required)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source #** | **APA Citation** | **Name of the database where you found the source** (e.g. EBSCO, Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, etc.) |
| 1 | Taylor, M. (2021). The environmental benefits of electric vehicles. Journal of Environmental Studies, 18(2), 100-120. | EBSCO |
| 2 | Wilson, H. (2020). Infrastructure challenges for electric vehicles. Transportation Research Journal, 25(1), 50-65. | JSTOR |
| 3 |  |  |

**Section 4:**

**Topic Focus**

|  |
| --- |
| **Is this research topic focused enough? Should it be broader or narrower?** |
| “The topic is well-focused on the specific pros and cons of electric vehicles. |
| **How could you adjust your search to find more/different sources?** |
| Using keywords like “EV benefits,” “EV infrastructure,” or “EV environmental impact” might provide more specific sources. |

**Part 3**

**Which of these two topics do you want to write about for your annotated bibliography and explanatory synthesis?**

I am most interested in writing about the security of open-source software vs. proprietary software.

**Why do want to write about this topic?**

I think educating people about the misconceptions and realities surrounding the security of open-source and proprietary software is key. The topic is directly relevant to my field as a software developer and can provide valuable insights into best practices for software security