**Name:**

**Introduction to Wikipedia**

*What is your research topic?*

*What is/are your research question(s)?* (Answer this after you complete the following worksheet).

Step 1: Visit the Wikipedia page for your topic. You may have to modify your topic or controversy to find a page that provides actual information related to the subject that interests you.

Write the MLA citation for the page. You can find out how to write an MLA citation for Wikipedia by googling it. (Hint: it has its own Wikipedia page).

Step 2: Read the Wikipedia page, focusing on relevant sections. Are there any explicitly stated controversies (e.g.: “People disagree about x…” or “Some people think x, while others think y…”)? List them here:

Step 3: Does the Wikipedia article mention any relevant current events (e.g.: a court case; a controversial article, film, or book; new legislation; a presidential speech; etc.)? List them here:

Step 4: Based on what you have read, list at least four search terms you want to follow up with. They might be names of people or places related to your controversy; specific events that happened related to your controversy; jargon that is used in talking about your topic; etc.

Step 5: Look at the citations on the bottom of the page. Copy and paste any useful-looking links here:

Step 6: Fill in your research questions at the top.

Step 7: Where are you now? Do you have too much information, or not enough? If you have too much information, how are you going to narrow your topic so that you can filter? Consider specific subcategories that catch your attention. If you don’t have enough information, how might you modify your topic to be more effective? Consider new keywords, new Wikipedia pages, or other sources that might serve you better.

Repeat this process as necessary if you find other helpful Wikipedia pages.

Stay focused: don’t go down the Wikipedia rabbit hole! You can lose days down there.