



### Writing Assignment: A Spark

You spend all summer trying to get close to your crush. You go bowling even though you hate bowling. You send emails and IM and finally you are out on date, just the 2 of you. Unfortunately, the conversation is forced, your date is answering text messages all through dinner, and you just want it to be over. Luckily, it will be because you aren't married.

At this point, you are not married to your research topic yet either. You are in the dating stages and if things are not going well, you can look for a new topic or give this one another chance. The work you are doing in this assignment is like dating your topic. You are seeing if you like it and if there is enough substance to take this topic all the way.

Nothing is more frustrating than discovering at the eleventh hour that there is not much information about your topic, that all the sources say the same thing, or that the topic isn't as interesting as you thought. To avoid these pitfalls, this assignment will give you a little preview of how the project will go and give your instructor enough information to guide you toward successful discovery.

1. Complete the chart that presents your overall research question and the series of questions you will explore in relation to the main question. Add as many additional squares as you like to the middle levels. Feel free to complete more than one chart if you are considering more than one topic or more than one direction in the same topic.

Topic						
Main (General) Discovery Question						
Focused Discovery Questions						
Specific Discovery Questions						
Follow up Question						

## EXAMPLE

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Video Games</b>					
<b>Main (General) Discovery Question</b>	Does playing violent video games lead to violent behavior?					
<b>Focused Discovery Questions</b>	Which video games are considered violent?		How do psychologists study the relationship between violent behavior and influences?		What is violent behavior?	
<b>Specific Discovery Questions</b>	What kind of violence is portrayed in these games?	Which demographic purchases or plays this game?	What studies have been done on this subject?	How can psychologists be sure that violence they observe is actually caused by games?	Is the violent behavior anything to be concerned about, or is it minor violence?	Are the violent behaviors exhibited immediately, or are they long term?
<b>Follow up Question</b>	What could/should be done about this if it really is a problem?					

- Use the following graphic organizer to complete at least 3 source cards on your topic. Source cards are used to create your Works Cited page and to help you assess how successful your research will be. Create as many source cards as you like.

Location (URL, Library, etc)				
Author(s) or Editor(s) (Last name, First name) of the Main Source				
Title of Main Source				
Author(s) or Editor(s) of the Article or Chapter				
Title of Article or Chapter				
City of Publication: Name of Publisher				
Date of Publication				
Page numbers				
Type of source: Primary or Secondary	Primary <input type="radio"/> Secondary <input type="radio"/>			
Reliability of source	Very reliable <input type="radio"/>	Fairly reliable <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat Reliable <input type="radio"/>	Unreliable <input type="radio"/>
Summary or description of the information the source provides.				
How useful will this source be in answering research questions?	Very useful <input type="radio"/>	Fairly useful <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat useful <input type="radio"/>	Background information only <input type="radio"/>

Location (URL, Library, etc)				
Author(s) or Editor(s) (Last name, First name) of the Main Source				
Title of Main Source				
Author(s) or Editor(s) of the Article or Chapter				
Title of Article or Chapter				
City of Publication: Name of Publisher				
Date of Publication				
Page numbers				
Type of source: Primary or Secondary	Primary <input type="radio"/> Secondary <input type="radio"/>			
Reliability of source	Very reliable <input type="radio"/>	Fairly reliable <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat Reliable <input type="radio"/>	Unreliable <input type="radio"/>
Summary or description of the information the source provides.				
How useful will this source be in answering research questions?	Very useful <input type="radio"/>	Fairly useful <input type="radio"/>	Somewhat useful <input type="radio"/>	Background information only <input type="radio"/>

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Type of source: Primary or Secondary	Primary <input type="radio"/> Secondary <input type="radio"/>			
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