

### Research Paper Steps 1-3: Topic Selection, cursory Findings, and Research Questions

#### Prelude to Part I:

- Pick a region or a country that was or is subject to [colonization and/or imperialism](#)
- Search for information about current issues in those regions or countries
- Decide which of those issues is applicable to one of our six possible research topics
- Pick a topic and plug in the specific issue from your general search.
- Begin Part I.

#### Part I:

Find 3 electronic articles from reputable publications. The articles should be relevant to your topic.

Do not use *Wikipedia* or Blogs (that is unless the blog belongs to a Ph.D. candidate or a reputable expert in the field. For example, if Neil deGrasse Tyson blogs about a scientific issue that you're looking into, you should definitely check it out and use it).

The articles should also be published within the last five years. Electronic sources should also have a URL address that ends in .com or .org; authors with a brief bio; live hyperlinks; few, if any, add spaces; website contact information.

For each article, use the [Refining Close Reading Skills for Nonfiction](#) handout. You should work through each article using the template below, but be advised that **you should not complete Part II** of the table until you (1) read and reflected on 3 articles (2) read the 2nd page of this handout:

**Topic (type the topic you select in the box below. Be sure to fill in specific information):**

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<b>Title 1(embed hyperlink):</b>
<b>Mode:</b> <b>Audience:</b> <b>Structure:</b>
<b>Proof of Author's Credibility:</b>
<b>Reader's Response:</b> (record answers to each of the questions that are related to your article's structure)
<b>Title 2(embed hyperlink):</b>
<b>Mode:</b> <b>Audience:</b> <b>Structure:</b>
<b>Proof of Author's Credibility:</b>
<b>Reader's Response:</b> (record answers to each of the questions that are related to your article's structure)

<b>Title 3(embed hyperlink) :</b>
<b>Mode:</b> <b>Audience:</b> <b>Structure:</b>
<b>Proof of Author's Credibility:</b>
<b>Reader's Response:</b> (record answers to each of the questions that are related to your article's structure)

**Part II Synthesis:**

Look at the answers you developed for each article and answer the following questions.

1. What common factor or idea related to your topic does each article address?

2. What connections can you make between each text?

3. Given your answer to questions 1 and 2, what aspect of the topic seems most pressing or most compelling?

**Part III: Research Question**

Once you've worked through the Synthesis questions, you are ready for the **next step**- posing a research question.

Review your Synthesis section. What question does the information yield?

Before you write your research question, watch the Steely Library NKU video, "[Developing a Research Question](#)."

With the information from the video in mind, compose one insightful, clear, concise research question. It should not be a "yes" or "no" questions. Record your question in the box below. We will work together to revise and refine your question.

**Research Question:**

**Part IV: Unpack Your Research Question**

*Unpack your question. List the various aspects of your question that you will have to investigate. You should compile no less than 8 guidelines and no more than 14.*

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What's ahead:

I will provide a note-taking template once we complete this step. The note-taking process is Step 3. You will look for and note information related to your unpacked products.