

Your Name:

Research Topics Brainstorms Worksheet

For our next essay, you will investigate a theme that has emerged from our examinations of language and literacy politics. The first and sometimes most challenging step is to identify the topic you want to research and write about. You may wish to examine an idea introduced in one of our texts or you may choose to identify your own issue (perhaps that you personally connect to) to highlight a perspective not considered or dealt with adequately in the readings. Finally, if nothing from our course topic grabs you, you may choose to research a different topic altogether. So let's get to brainstorming!

Brainstorming is a fundamental process to research and writing. More time fine-tuning ideas leads to better research which leads to better researched writing. This worksheet is designed to help you identify topics that interest you, questions you have, and views you already hold.

STEP 1: Brainstorm Interests (Already have a strong interest? Skip to STEP 2)

List/freewrite here the various authors/topics/ideas you've found yourself drawn to when learning about the politics of language so far this semester.

Gather and reread your various responses to course texts (at the end of your Rhetorical Situation Worksheets as any notes you wrote about our readings or class discussions. In what ways do your reflections overlap with your list/freewrite above, if at all? What sorts of topics/concepts did you focus on?

STEP 2: Identify Topics that (You Feel) Need to be Exposed to Audiences

What is one topic/issue related to our class theme on language politics that you are interested in investigating? Why might this topic be worth exploring and sharing with readers? Explain.

STEP 3: Personal Connections and Reflections

What personal experiences have you had with this one topic, if any? What details from your life or the lives of your friends, acquaintances, or relatives might serve as examples or other kinds of evidence for how you perceive the issue?

Which of our course texts might connect to this topic? How do they connect? What specific ideas from our course readings might you paraphrase or quote?

How strongly do you feel about adopting for your next essay this topic you've been thinking and writing about in this worksheet? What questions/concerns do you have, if any?

STEP 4: Other Topics

What other topics (outside of language politics) are you interested in and that you feel need to be explored and shared? Why do you like this topic? What audiences need to hear about this topic?