Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class/Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Preliminary Research Plan**

**Topic:**

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| **1. Overview (summarize what you want to discuss in your research paper)** |
|  |
| **2. Determine who your audience will be by addressing the following questions.** |
| * Who is the general audience I want to reach? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Who is most likely to be interested in the research I am doing? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * What is it about my topic that interests the general audience I have discerned? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * If the audience I am writing for is not particularly interested in my topic, what should I do to pique its interest? \_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * Will each member of the broadly conceived audience agree with what I have to say? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   If not (which will likely be the case!) what counter-arguments should I be prepared to answer? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **3. Use “question words” to generate research questions from your research topic.** |
| * Who: * What: * When: * Where: * Why: * How: * Does: |
| **4. List key words and concepts that focus your research.** |
| * ▪ * ▪ * ▪ * ▪ * ▪ * ▪ * ▪ |
| **5. Conduct preliminary research using the Tennessee Electronic Library to see what information is available on your topic. Locate at least three specific resources that may be useful to your research. Provide a citation and a summary or notes for each source.**  **\*Save Sources**  Suggested databases:   * *Opposing Viewpoints* *in Context* (choosing a topic; choosing an argument) * *General Onefile* (preliminary research) * *General Reference Center Gold* (preliminary research) |
| **Source Citation:**  **Summary/Notes:** |
| **Source Citation:**  **Summary/Notes:** |
| **Source Citation:**  **Summary/Notes:** |

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| **6. Based on my preliminary research, I have chosen to focus on the following aspect of my topic:** |
|  |
| **7. Statement of Purpose:**  Example: I am studying *eating disorders* to find out *why women more than men are affected by them* and to understand *what social conditions exist and what changes can be made to prevent eating disorders*. |
| I am studying \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to find out \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  (topic) (research question)  and to understand \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  (rationale/significance). |
| **8. Now that you have a major statement of purpose to focus your research, write 3-5 related or sub-questions that will need answering (e.g. statistical data or factual information).** |
|  |