

Planning the first draft

The Quest: Discovering new ideas through research

http://anthro.rschram.org/the_quest

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Here are some things to consider as you work toward a draft of your essay. You don't really have to do them in order, although in general, research consists of a series of steps where basic elements lead to more complex ideas.

Do I have a concrete topic, or a real-world situation that I can read about? _____

What is interesting, unexpected or novel about this topic?

Do I have an open-ended, debatable, 'why' question about this topic? _____

Why is this question debatable? How many different possible answers are there?

Do I have an answer to this question, a thesis statement or claim I can defend? _____

What are some of the key facts about this topic? What are some my key examples?

What conclusions can I draw from these examples?

What is the basis (or warrant) on which I can move to a bigger conclusion in these examples?

Do I have reliable, factual and relevant sources of information? _____

Do I have complete, correct bibliographic information for each source? _____