Name:___________________

Topic Proposal

1. RESEARCH TOPIC PROPOSAL: Write down a topic that you’re interested in pursuing for your annotated bibliography and argument paper.

2. SEARCH TERMS/KEYWORDS: Write down 5-10 initial search terms, or keywords, that you could use to search for material pertaining to your topic.

2. FIRST QUICK SEARCH: Open up Google (or another search engine window), and, using some of your search terms, do a search on your topic. Click on any entry from the first page of hits that looks interesting. Read through the link, and then answer these three questions:

   A. AUTHORSHIP: Who is the author, what organization published the piece, when was it last updated, and what does the text reveal about the author’s competence in the field?

   B. IMPARTIALITY AND PROFESSIONALISM: How impartial is this source? How professional is the presentation?

   C. USEFULNESS: Does this link seem like it provides information that is meaningful and useful to your research topic?

3. SECOND QUICK SEARCH: Using a computer that is connected to the UCSC network, go to the Gale Virtual Reference Library (an encyclopedia database); find it at http://library.ucsc.edu/find/databases/a-z?search=gale+virtual. Again, using your search terms, find an article that is related to your topic, read the article, and then

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1 Thank you to Peter Elbow and Pat Belanoff, Being a Writer, for these questions.
answer these three questions:

A. AUTHORSHIP: Who is the author, what organization published the piece, when was it last updated, and what does the text reveal about the author’s competence in the field?

B. IMPARTIALITY AND PROFESSIONALISM: How impartial is this source? How professional is the presentation?

C. USEFULNESS: Does this link seem like it provides information that is meaningful and useful to your research topic?

4. REFLECTION #1: After having read the encyclopedia article AND the online article, how might you approach your topic differently? Write a few sentences to explain.

If you would like, write a new RESEARCH TOPIC PROPOSAL here:

5. REFLECTION #2: Write a few sentences about your experience doing these two searches, and about what the searches turned up – which source seems potentially more useful? Why?

6. MORE SEARCH TERMS: Based on all of your thinking and reading so far, write down more search terms or keywords relating to your topic. Remember to use terms that you found in the articles you read in addition to words from your initial question/topic.