

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

## Developing a Research Question<sup>1</sup>

The best way to begin a research paper is to clarify what you don't know about a topic and devise questions that can be answered through research.

Follow the steps below and to create a working research topic:

1. State your topic in a general way (for example, "civil war battles near Washington, D.C.").

2. Write down what you THINK you know about your topic.

3. Develop five or more questions about your topic. (Ask yourself: Why? How? What if? Which?)

4. List 10 keywords about your topic.

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<sup>1</sup> Developed from Ann Marlow Riedling's *An Educator's Guide to Information Literacy: What Every High School Senior Needs to Know*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2007.