

Research & Writing Skills

Where To Begin

- 1) Pick a topic
- 2) Brainstorm
 - How much do I know about the topic?
- 3) Organize ideas
- 4) Is there enough information available?
 - Quickly search for books/articles
- 5) Is the topic too broad? Too narrow?
- 6) Develop a research question
 - What do I want to find out about this topic?

Sample Planning Sheet

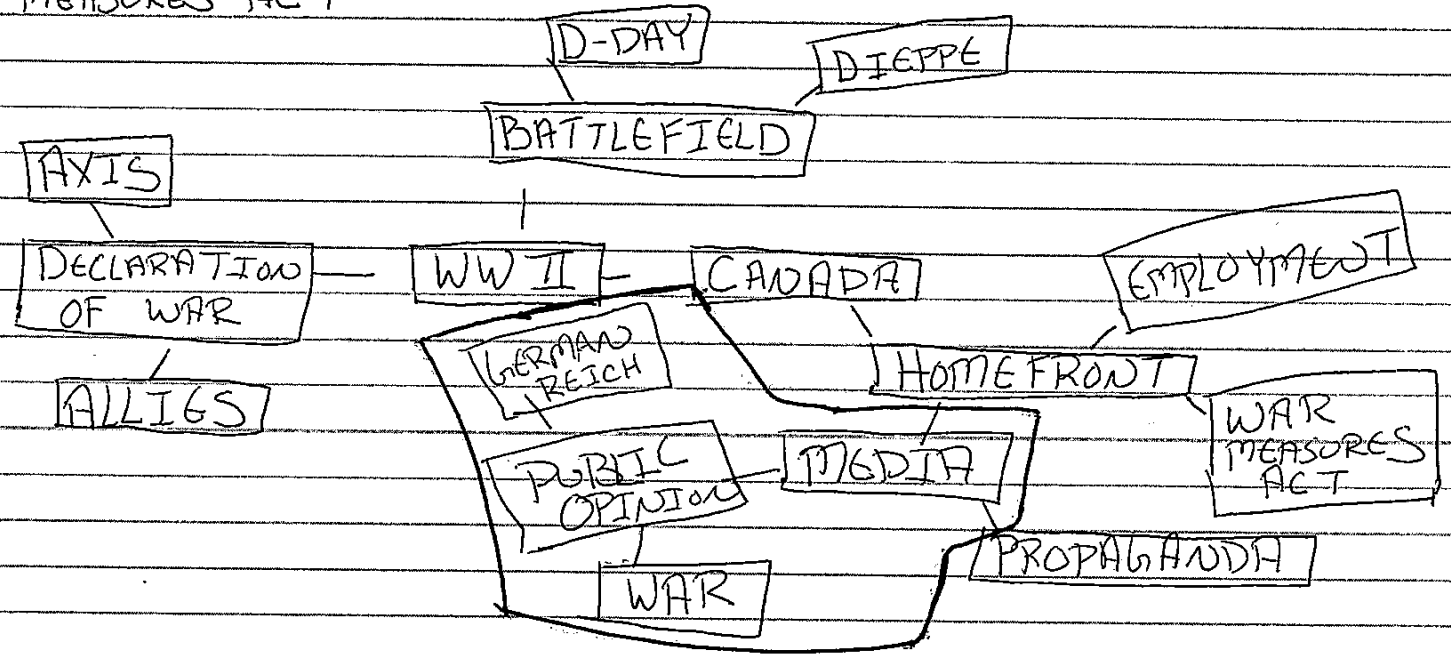
CANADIAN HISTORY ESSAY

1) WORLD WAR II AND CANADA

2) SEPT. 1939 INVASION OF POLAND
SEPT. 10 1939 CANADA DECLARES WAR
WAR MEASURES ACT

COMMUNISM VS. DEMOCRACY
PROPAGANDA

3)



4) ARTICLE "NEVER AGAIN!" - WHITAKER / MARCUS
BOOK THE PEOPLES OF CANADA - J.M. BUMSTED
NEWSPAPER THE GLOBE AND MAIL
TORONTO STAR

5) TOO BROAD - FOCUS INSTEAD ON ONE MEDIA OUTLET
THE GLOBE AND MAIL

6) How did the GLOBE AND MAIL influence public opinion of the war / German Reich?

THESIS:

THE GLOBE AND MAIL HELPED TO INFLUENCE CANADIANS INITIAL REACTION TO THE WAR AND THE PORTRAYAL OF THE GERMAN REICH AS THE ENEMY STATE.

Evaluate

Currency

- How recent is the information?
- How recently has the website been updated?
- Is it current enough for your topic?

Reliability

- What kind of information is included?
- Is the content primarily opinion? Is it balanced?
- Does the creator provided references or sources?

Authority

- Who is the creator or author? What are their credentials?
- Who is the publisher or sponsor? Are they reputable?
- What is the publisher's interest (if any) in this information?
- Are there advertisements on the website?

Purpose/ Point of View

- Is this fact or opinion?
- Is the creator/author trying to sell you something?
- Is it biased?

Cite

MLA Works Cited Page

Books

Lastname, Firstname. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.

Periodicals (magazines)

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Periodical Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.

Website

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). Name of Site. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.

APA Reference List

Books

Author, A. A. (Year of publication). Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle. Location: Publisher.

Periodicals (magazines)

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year). Title of article. Title of Periodical, volume number(issue number), pages.

Website

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Date of publication). Title of article. Title of Online Periodical, volume number(issue number if available). Retrieved from <http://www.someaddress.com/full/url/>

In-Text Citations

APA

(Jones, 1998, p. 199).

MLA

(Wordsworth 263).

When writing your paper, it is necessary to cite all sources that you have used. Even if you don't quote a passage word for word, you are still using an idea from another source which requires a citation.