Library Worksheet: Find & Evaluate a Source

1. What is your research question or topic?

2. What are the 2-3 keywords or phrases you used to search?

3. Choose the best result you found and email it to yourself so you have the information to create a citation. Write down the following information from your source here. What can you find out about the author? What can you find out about the publication or website?
   a. Author:
   b. Title of article:
   c. Source (title of journal, newspaper, website):
   d. Year and/or volume:
   e. Page numbers:
   f. URL:

4. Read the abstract and skim the article, then write a couple of sentences in response to the following questions –
   a. Why did you choose this source from your list of results? How is this source useful? How does this source contribute to your understanding of the issue?

   b. What are the limitations of this source? Is the information credible and accurate? How do you know that it is? What else may you need to find out?

   c. How might you use this source in your paper (e.g., primary argument, context, counterargument)?

   d. What are some problems with this source such as credibility or accuracy?
Concept Mapping

A Concept Map is a tool to narrow down a broad research topic to a narrow, focused research question.

Write the proposed topic or research question for your research assignment on the line below.

1. Brainstorm ideas and concepts related to your topic/question. Write down any thought no matter how obvious or dumb it may seem to you. Write these words around the central topic/question.
2. What ideas or concepts stand out? Do these connect with other ideas? Circle words that stand out and/or connect those ideas with lines.
3. Revise your research topic or question as necessary so it makes sense.
4. Write down the keywords you identified to use as search terms in a library database.

___________________________________________________________________________________________

REVISED TOPIC / QUESTION: ________________________________________________________________

KEYWORDS: _____________________________________________________________________________