Basic Research Worksheet

1. What is your topic or thesis? _________________________________________________.

2. What are the questions you need to answer about your topic or thesis? It is wise to think of at least five questions to start with. (Start with thinking about the WHO, WHAT, WHY, WHEN, WHERE, and HOW.)
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 
   d. 
   e. 
   f. 
   g. 

3. Look back at your questions. Circle important words (usually nouns and verbs) that can be used as KEYWORDS. (Do not circle words like “a”, “an”, “the”, “and”, “what”, “where”, “why”, “how”, etc. Search engines ignore these words and call them stop words.) Now, write the words you circled below:

4. Can you think of any synonyms to the words above? Add them to your list.

5. Finally, decide what kinds of sources will contain information on your topic. Books, Encyclopedias, Newspapers, Magazines, Websites, Videos, etc. We will use the library’s book catalog and article databases to find quality resources.