

Name Topic



Write a brief account of the class conversation about the topic, describing what you know at this point about some of its aspects:

After discussing the topic in class, students document the ideas that arose during the conversation that could lead to the framing of a series of potential areas of investigation. Student responses should include a sentence that introduces the topic. 1-2 complete sentences that explain key ideas from the discussion.

This brief account will help the teacher assess what previous knowledge the student has on the topic, what the student and/or class has understood as key dimensions for exploring the topic and how they formulate them, and aid students to develop an awareness of the learning process in general.

POTENTIAL AREA OF INVESTIGATION

In a few words, describe an area within the topic that you would like to know more about:

Based on the topic exploration, students perform pre-searches and discuss the topic with members of their learning community (peers, teachers, librarians...). From these discussions, they will draw more focused ideas about specific questions or themes they would like to investigate further within the framework of the general topic. Student responses in each box should include a complete statement or question that introduces a focused area of investigation that is related to the overall topic.

The teacher can assess the student's understanding of the source and its connection to the overall topic by determining the student's clarity, precision and complexity in phrasing what he or she would like to know more about the topic.

Explain why you are interested in this area of the topic:

The research process must encourage productive curiosity. Therefore, it is important that the students are afforded the opportunity to genuinely relate to the areas of investigation they choose to explore. Student responses should include a complete sentence that clearly explains why they are interested in the area of investigation.

The teacher will gain important information about the student's background knowledge on the topic, and be able to facilitate/enrich the research process by encouraging the student to relate the topic to his or her life.

Express your potential area of investigation as a question or problem:

Students review what they would like to know more about, how the topic relates to something they already know or have experiences, and then write what they want to know more about the topic as a question or problem.

The student's question or statement will help the teacher assess the student's ability to link what they have understood to an overall problem, and how creative and proactive the student is in furthering the investigation.