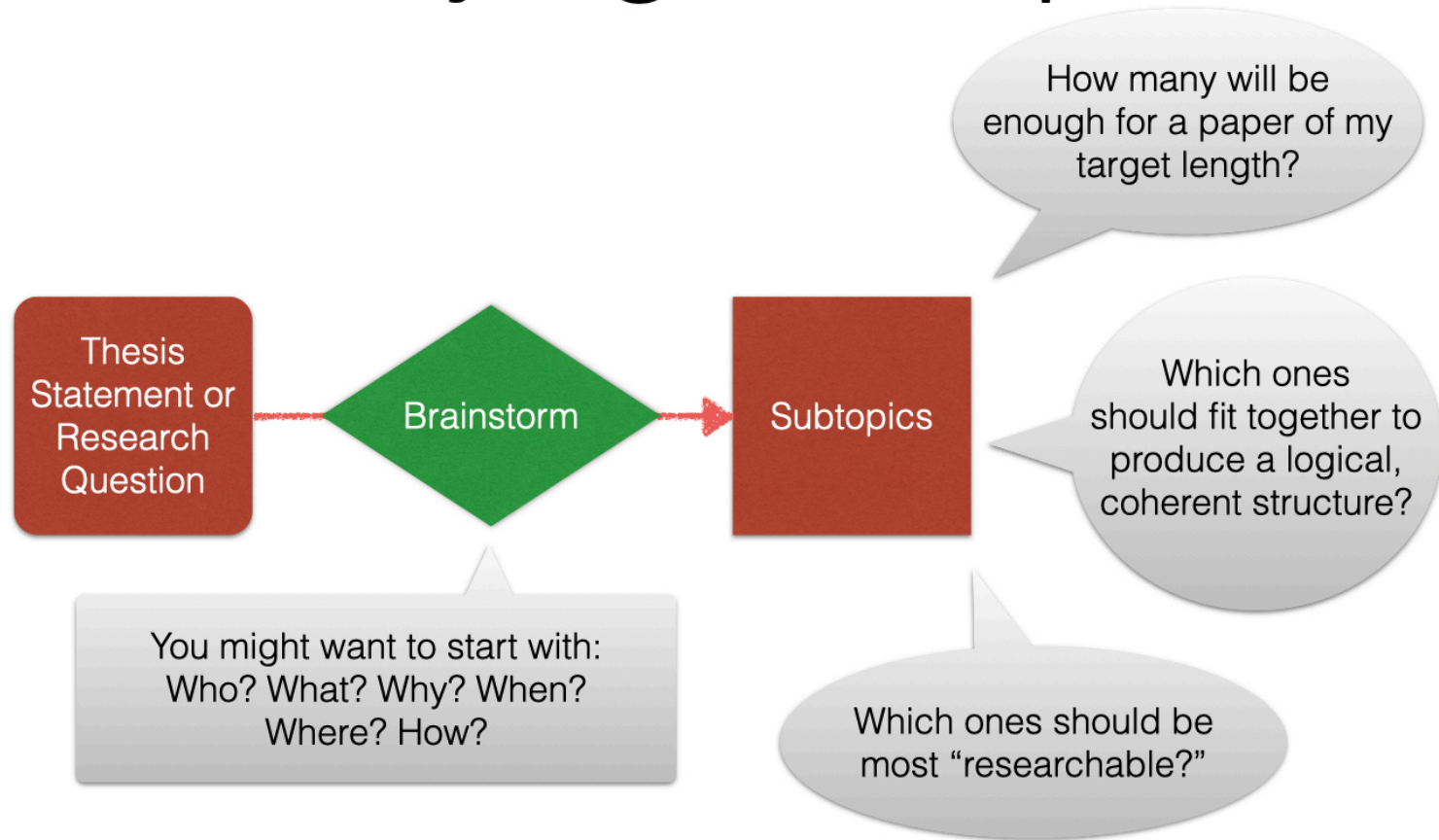

Resources for Topic Three: Carrying Out Your Research

Contents:

1. Identifying Subtopics
2. Source Record
3. Detecting Bias
4. Detecting Bias Questions To Ask
5. Cornell Method Sections
6. Corroboration - Triangulation

Identifying subtopics



Source record

[illegible]

Name:	Some "tests" we can apply to texts to help us to detect bias: ○ The test of "reasonableness" ○ The test of "word choice" ○ The test of "emotion/reason" ○ The test of "proof" ○ The test of "balanced representation"
Date:	
Title of the text to be analyzed:	
Author:	
Source:	

The ideas in this text are reasonable.

Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Mixed 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
---------------------------	---------------	------------	------------	------------------------

The word choice in this text is neutral.

Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Mixed 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
---------------------------	---------------	------------	------------	------------------------

This text uses reason, not emotion.

Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Mixed 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
---------------------------	---------------	------------	------------	------------------------

This text provides proof for the main ideas.

Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Mixed 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
---------------------------	---------------	------------	------------	------------------------

This text gives a balanced representation of the issues.

Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Mixed 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
---------------------------	---------------	------------	------------	------------------------

Overall, I think this text is free of bias.

Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Mixed 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
---------------------------	---------------	------------	------------	------------------------

Detecting Bias in Writing—Some questions to ask...

- Is the writing reasonable?
- What is the balance of emotion and reason?
- What proof is offered?
- Is the presentation balanced?
- Is the choice of words reasonable?
- Is the language neutral, avoiding “snarl words” and “purr words”?
- Is there any imprecise or vague language that limits the interpretation?
- Are differing points of view acknowledged and dealt with?
- What is the writer’s reputation?
- Does the writer have anything to gain by convincing you?
- Has the writer declared any potential conflict of interest?
- What is the reputation of the publishing organization?
- Are there clear connections to special interest groups?
- What sources are being quoted for “facts”/“data”?
- Is it clear what is fact and what is opinion?
- Does the writer use “spin”—i.e., subjective comments about objective facts?
- Is the logic sound?
- Is there factual agreement with other sources?
- What do other sources have to say about this writer’s ideas?

Identifying Bias--some sources

<http://www.surfnetkids.com/tech/1404/evaluating-bias-in-online-information/>

http://asher813.typepad.com/dreams_into_lightning/2006/05/how_can_you_det.html

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bias>

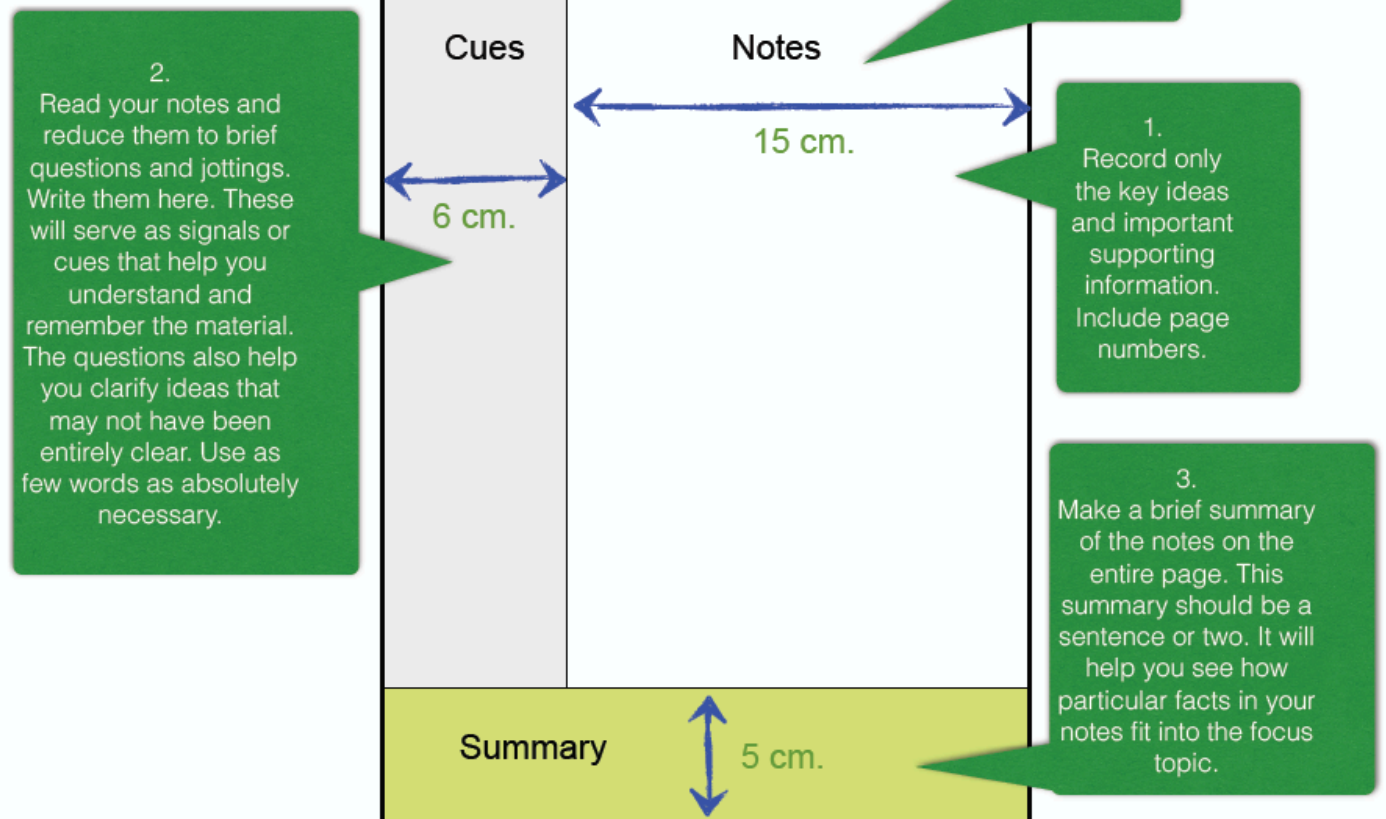
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_biases_in_judgment_and_decision_making

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_bias

High Performance Study Skills

—Chapter 4

The Cornell Method



Corroboration

The quality
of your
sources is
critical

Are you using ethical
journals?

Who are the most
respected and/or
most-often cited
researchers/writers
in the field?

Confirmation: evidence that confirms or supports a statement, theory, or finding

Are you using the
Internet sparingly?

Are you checking
for bias?

Triangulation

