

# Identifying the Topic/Research Question, Evidence, & Arguments

Title, Author of Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Pages Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the assigned reading and answer the following questions to help you identify the author's topic, research question, main arguments, sub-points, and evidence presented.**

What is the **main topic**, issue, theme, and/or research question the author is addressing in this reading?

What **context**, background, history, or explanation is given for this topic/question?

What is the **author's purpose** in writing about this? Why does the author feel it's important?

What is the **author's position**, viewpoint, and/or **theoretical approach** to the topic/question?

How is the main topic/question broken down into **separate points, arguments, or sections**? List and briefly describe these.

What **evidence** does the author present to support each of these points?

Draw a diagram/map which summarizes the reading's content, purpose, and main argument. Try to visually represent the key information in the reading, in a way which makes sense to you, promotes understanding of what the author is trying to say, draws connections among the various points or sub-topics, and demonstrates the flow of the argument. Include the main topic/question, sub-points, arguments, and evidence and show the relationships among these.