

IDENTIFYING RESOURCES AND CHOOSING A TOPIC

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It is important at this stage of the Inquiry process to spend some time exploring topics and ideas and connecting to them in a personal way. It is tempting to pay minimal attention to or skip this stage altogether, however effort here will lead to the development of a great inquiry question and ultimately a successful project.

By now, you will have...

- THE BIG PICTURE – an overview of the curricular content of the course
- Background knowledge
- A general picture of the content
- A personal connection to the issues

In your Inquiry Portfolio, consider the following questions:

1. What are some of the important things you have learned in the course/about the topic?
2. What was surprising or new to you?
3. What are some things that you already knew? From where did you learn these things?
4. What are ideas that have come to mind since taking this course/learning about this topic?
5. What would you like to know more about based on the course/topic?

Now, begin the process of exploring some of your ideas. Using the ideas you have generated above, think about the following:

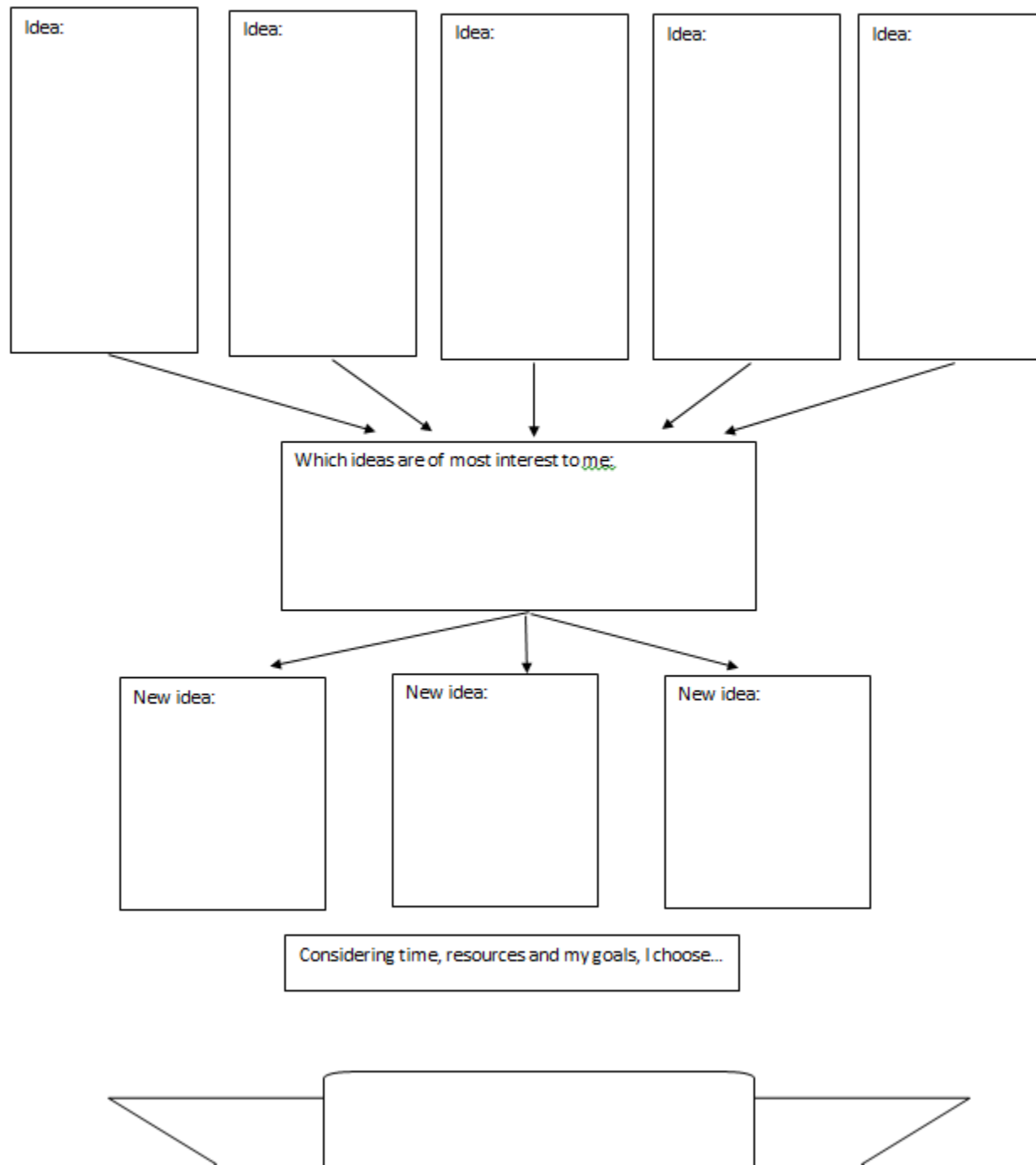
- What information is available related to these ideas?
- Skim & scan
- Read & view on this topic
- Become informed about the topic
- Reflect/discuss & write
- Connect the ideas to areas of interest for you
- Browse, skim and scan a variety of resources and develop a sense of what is available
- Start recording sources in your Inquiry Portfolio and making notes. Remember to consider the idea or question and why/how it might be useful, Summarize the idea, Paraphrase the idea, and think about where it might lead/further investigation. **Create a table for each source you consult.**

| Source: | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Page # | Idea/question...why/how will this source be useful | Summarize | Paraphrase | Extension |
| | | | | |

- Reflect and begin to refine your ideas
- What are your thoughts/ideas/feelings
- Share your thoughts with your classmates

The next step will be to reflect on your explorations and identify an important, meaningful Inquiry Question.

Creating a Research Proposal – Graphic Organizer



Annotated Bibliography



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Resources:

"Creating Essential Questions." *Galileo.org*. Galileo Educational Network, n.d. Web. 27 Apr. 2016.

<<http://galileo.org/teachers/designing-learning/resources/creating-essential-questions/>>.