

# topic development

GEN 411  
(Erion)

In chapters 3-6 of *The Craft of Research*, Booth, Colomb, and Williams discuss guidelines for developing a proper research topic, and then for using that topic to generate research questions and – ultimately – a solid collection of sources.

Pages 49-52 introduce an especially useful exercise to help researchers articulate their projects; after you have read this section of the book, try to explain your own Capstone project by filling in the blanks below.\*

## name your topic

(1) I am studying \_\_\_\_\_ ...

## add a question

(2) ... because I want to find out who/ what/ when/ where/ whether/ why/ how \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ...

## motivate your question

(3) ... in order to help me and my audience understand \_\_\_\_\_ .

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\* All page numbers here refer to the Second Edition of [The Craft of Research](#); if you are using the First Edition, simply use the Index (pp. 289-294) to help you locate the relevant information.