

Defining Your Terms

Purpose: This worksheet has two purposes. First, it helps students create a list of the most important terms from the text. Second, it helps students find concise definitions in the text and allows them to avoid over-summarizing.

Directions: Find five important terms that you think you will use in your paper. Use both the text and dictionary to define the terms and think about the context in which the word is used in the text.

1. Term #1: _____
Definition: _____

(dictionary) _____

2. Term #2: _____
Definition: _____

(dictionary) _____

3. Term #3: _____
Definition: _____

(dictionary) _____

4. Term #4: _____
Definition: _____

(dictionary) _____

5. Term #5: _____
Definition: _____

(dictionary) _____

Tips for Using Your Terms:

- Only use these terms in your project sentences if you are sure of what they mean. You need to be able to explain them to your tutor, teacher, peer reviewer, etc.
- Use the definitions from this worksheet to help you introduce each term in a line or less.
- Only include the definition of the term once in your paper. Repeating your definitions to fill space is not proper writing!