## Research Question & Theory Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Idea #1</th>
<th>Idea #2</th>
<th>Idea #3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theory/Research Context</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Research Question</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Questions (Sub-Questions)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Needed to Answer Questions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Method</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>So what? (What will this contribute?)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEVELOPING A RESEARCH QUESTION

RESEARCH QUESTIONS
- Identify what you are going to research
- Set the direction for your entire research project
- Help you narrow, focus, and keep on track

GENERATING A RESEARCH QUESTION
- Read & think, then brainstorm: write down as many questions as you can think of about your topic
- Pick two or three that seem strongest
- Clarify and focus the questions

EVALUATING RESEARCH QUESTIONS
- Determine how workable/feasible your questions are:
  - What data will you need and what do you need to do to gather it?
  - What methods will you use?
  - How long will it take?
  - How much will it cost?
  - What skills/experience/knowledge are involved?
- If needed, adjust your questions to make them more workable

PLACING WITHIN THEORY/RESEARCH CONTEXT
- Theory/research context forms a lens to view your topic through and influences every aspect of your research, including the research question, methodology
- Identify possible theories
- Create research questions for each theory
- Evaluate feasibility and choose one

QUESTIONS?
Joanne Oud, Library
joud@wlu.ca, -2293