**Research Investigation Planning Sheet for Format/Template**

**TITLE – the title is the research question**

**HEADING – Research and Planning**

**Sub heading – Claim statement –** Write the chosen claim for the investigation

**Sub heading – Rationale**

* **considered rationale identifying clear development of the research question from the claim**
* Introduction to the topic Background and theory).
* Must link the research question to the claim – the rationale must explain how the research question evolved from the claim and show how the research question is clearly narrowing of the terms in the claim statement.

**Sub heading – The Research Question**

* **a specific and relevant research question**
* **selection of sufficient and relevant sources.**
* Restate research question.
* State the studies (should be at least 2 or 3 studies that contain good data related to your research question) and a brief description of each source (scope and how it relates to your research question – 2 or 3 sentences each?).
* Present the data/evidence from your sources (or you could do this at the start of the next section – analysis and Interpretation).

*Sentence Starters*

* *This review will use three studies from …….. that have been undertaken to determine ……*
* *The results of these studies will be compiled to investigate ……..*
* *The significant points that appear include …….*
* *The essence of the investigation is ……*
* *The key features of ……… are ……*
* *………..comprises/is composed of/ consists of ……….*
* *The most significant elements of …….. include ……….*

**HEADING - Analysis and interpretation**

**Sub heading – Trends, Patterns, or Relationships**

* + **thorough identification of relevant trends, patterns or relationships**
* **justified scientific argument/s**
* **the identification of sufficient and relevant evidence.**
* Analyse the data you have presented to identify trends, patterns, or relationships. Explain how these Trends, Patterns, or relationships either support or contradict or qualify your research question.
* The criteria of “justified scientific arguments” will also be judged in this subheading – in your explaination.
* The criteria of “identification of sufficient and relevant evidence” will also be judged in this subheading – by whether you have identified sufficient trends, patterns, or relationships to cover the scope of your research question.

**Sub heading – Limitations of the evidence**

* + **thorough and appropriate identification of limitations of evidence**
* **justified scientific argument/s**
* **the identification of sufficient and relevant evidence.**
* Identify and explain the limitations of the evidence. These simply need to be identified and the nature of the limitation explained. No need to suggest improvements or extensions here.
* The criteria of “justified scientific arguments” will also be judged in this subheading – by your explaination.
* The criteria of “identification of sufficient and relevant evidence” will also be judged in this subheading – by your identification and explaination.

*Sentence Starters*

* *Important though ……. Is , it is not the most relevant factor in …….*
* *The main similarities/differences between …… and …… are …..*
* *There is a complex relationship between ….. and …..*
* *The graph/table/result showed/revealed that …..*
* *The data revealed a strong connection between …..*
* *There is very little relationship between ….. and …..*
* *Specific differences exist between ….. and …..*
* *The similarities between ….. and ….. are more relevant than the differences.*
* *This is similar to …..*
* *The most obvious feature of ….. is …..*
* *The most significant elements of ….. include …..*
* *The main reason that ….. occurs is …..*
* *A general pattern emerges which is …..*
* *The table/graph supports the information in the text by …..*
* *….. is well supported by the evidence which states that …..*
* *There are many reasons for …..*
* *The weight of evidence would suggest that …..*
* *The graph shows that …..*
* *Compared with the data in Table A, the data in Table B shows …..*
* *….. can be supported by the information in Graph A.*
* *However, not all factors were tested …..*
* *Limitations of the studies included ……*
* *Some data was excluded because …..*

**HEADING - Conclusion and evaluation**

**Sub heading – Conclusion (could be first but not always – keep reading)**

* Make a conclusion based on the trends, patterns, and relationships you identified previously. This is not simply a restatement of your trends, patterns, or relationships that you identified previously – a conclusion is a decision you make based on those identifications. Ensure these decisions are directly related to your research question and you justify the conclusion by logical use of the trend, patterns, or relationships (or data) you identified earlier.
	+ **justified conclusion/s linked to the research question**
* If there is more than one conclusion that you can make, you will have more than one paragraph in this section.

*Sentence Starters*

* *The evidence collected allows the following conclusions to be made …..*
* *There are significant advantages/disadvantages with …..*
* *There are several flaws in the study such as …..*
* *There is very little evidence that …..*
* *All the evidence suggests …..*
* *Several sources have been used to create …..*
* *All evidence and supporting documentation points to …..*
* *Research has enabled the following conclusion to be reached …..*

**Sub heading - Reviewing the literature sources**

* + **insightful discussion of the quality of evidence**
* Briefly compare the evidence from all sources in terms of how they overlap or how they differ.
* Then focus on areas within the evidence that allows you to comment on the validity of your conclusions. If your evidence has not allowed you to draw valid conclusion it may be easier to start with this subheading before the conclusion subheading (makes it easier to write). Clearly explain why your conclusions were valid or why you are unable to make valid conclusions. This essentially relates back to the evidence itself in terms of questions such as
	+ Whether all your sources agree, or if there is some disagreement between the sources.
	+ Did your evidence cover the entire scope of your research question?
	+ Is there any doubt about the validity or reliability of the evidence in your sources?

*Sentence Starters*

* *Three studies were chosen in an attempt to ……*
* *This limits the ability to compare the results due to ……*
* *The consistency of results in the three papers leads to …..*
* *It is the lack of consistent results in the three papers that leads to …..*
* *Two of the papers used different techniques ……*
* *There is a great deal of evidence to support …..*
* *Clearly, it can be concluded that ….*

**Sub heading – Implications and further research**

* + **extrapolation of credible findings of the research to the claim**
	+ **suggested improvements and extensions to the investigation that are considered and relevant to the claim.**
* Extrapolate (extend) your conclusion to the broader claim statement and explain why your conclusions do, or do not, have implications for the broader claim statement.
* Suggest improvements to the data that would have increased the validity of your conclusions – these are things relating to whether the data collection methods were appropriate, was there a large enough sample size, is there any other limitation within the data.
* Suggest extensions to the evidence that would allow you to relate your conclusions to the broader claim statement.

*Sentence Starters*

* *Improvements might include …..*
* *It could be recommended that …..*
* *It would appear reasonable to conclude that ….., and therefore recommend …..*
* *Based on the findings, the following recommendations can be made.*
* *The following recommendations, listed in order of priority, are put forward for consideration:*
* *For the future, it is recommended that …..*
* *A list of the proposed recommendations with a summary of the reasons for each follows:*

**HEADING - Reference List**

* Ensure you reference your work in your research assignment as you write it.
* A complete list of resources in alphabetical order you accessed for your investigation.