**English 92: Pre-Project Preparation**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| PART I: Focusing Your Topic |

**Organize your questions:**

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| **General Group Topic**:  What do you know about it? What don’t you know? |  |
| **Your specific aspect of the group topic:**  What aspect of the group topic will you be researching? What do you know about it? What don’t you know about it? |  |
| **Period**:  What time period do you want to cover? |  |
| **Place**:  On what geographic region (place) do you want to focus? |  |
| **Person or group:**  Who is/was involved or affected? What person/group are you interested in? |  |
| **Purpose:**  What is it that you think happened or might be happening? Why is this important? |  |
| **Perspective**:  What perspective on your topic interests you: historical, literary, spiritual, cultural, sociological, psychological, legislatively, etc.? |  |

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| PART 2: Frame a Research Question or Thesis Statement |

1. **State your *specific aspect* of your group topic:**

***Example:*** *Julia Alvarez is a Spanish-speaking immigrant from the Dominican Republic. She uses Spanish words and phrases throughout the novel.*

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1. **State your specific topic as a *statement*:**

***Example:*** *Julia Alvarez’s immigrant background and native language adds interest and flavor to her novel, “In the Time of the Butterflies”.*

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1. **State your specific topic as a *question*:**

***Example:*** *How does Julia Alvarez’s immigrant background and native language add interest and flavor to her novel, “In the Time of the Butterflies”?*

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| PART 3: Identify Keywords and Search Terms |

Write down your main ideas/concepts and then brainstorm some keywords.

* Keywords include **synonyms, broader or narrower terms**, and **related terms**, but they might also be **phrases, names or places**. You may use a thesaurus, a librarian, your instructor or group members for help in brainstorming.

***Example:***

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| **Main Ideas/Concepts** | | **Keywords, Related Terms or Synonyms** | | |
| 1 | Immigrant  Background | Immigrant | Dominican Republic | Dual-citizen |
| 2 | Native language | Spanish, Spanish-speaking | bilingual | bilingualism |
| 3 | Interest/flavor | Appeal, attract, benefit | popularity | Best-seller, award-winning |
| 4 | *In the Time of the Butterflies* | novel | book | literature |

***Your Keywords and Search Terms:***

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| **Main Ideas/Concepts** | | **Keywords, Related Terms or Synonyms** | | |
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| PART 4: Organize: List Group Member Tasks and Create a Schedule or Timeline for Tasks |

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| **Group Member and Contact Info** | **Task** | **Timeline** |
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**Notes:**