

Checkpoint 4: Preliminary Argument Outline

What to Do

Before beginning narrative drafts of the Individual Written Argument, students consider the following reflection questions, addressing them in an informal, organized outline based on lessons from Module 6. Students will take specific details directly from sources included in their annotated bibliographies from Checkpoint 5:

1. What lens are you pursuing? What perspectives are you searching for in pursuit of that lens? Justify and consider the implications of those choices.
2. What specific paths are you pursuing? Why are you choosing to narrow in those ways rather than others? What do you project will be the usefulness of doing so?
3. What patterns, areas of overlap, or major claims are emerging from your research? What is generally recognized as valid by the professional community? What areas are currently under dispute? What are the major areas of disagreement?
4. What position is emerging in your research that could be made into an argument? What evidence do you have that best supports this? What might you still need to find to strengthen it?
5. Do you have any personal biases or hypotheses that could get in the way of due diligence in your research or in making your argument? What can you do to ensure that you have looked at all the relevant perspectives and information so that you can be confident in your argument?

Students will submit their informal responses to the questions above along with an informal, rough outline of their IWA draft based on resources in Module 6. They can use one of the three argument templates or adapt any of them to fit their research. Submissions are only for a progress check and project accountability.