



Organizing Evidence with Key Words¹

Task: Take a look at the pool of evidence you have gathered. Identify the key words in your pool of evidence to determine what's important.

Instructions:

1. Look through all of the evidence you have gathered. Below, make a list of key words. To do this, you might ask yourself:
 - What words appear in more than one source?
 - Which words appear in titles, headlines, and topic sentences?
 - If I were to describe all of my evidence in five words, what would those words be? And do those words (or their synonyms) appear in any sources?
 - Are there specialized or technical words (or “jargon”) around my topic that my audience will need to know or understand?
 - Which words feel important, significant, and intentional?

¹ Adapted from *Writing Rhetorically*, Jennifer Fletcher, 2021.



2. Looking at your list of key words, do you see any patterns emerge? Are there words that naturally group together to form a bigger idea or concept? Can I take these words and put them into smaller groups together?

3. Apply a label to each of these smaller groups.

Write them in Row 1 of the table below. These labels represent the big ideas found within your evidence.

4. Then, sort your evidence into the most-appropriate column. Where does each piece of evidence fit best?



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Key Word Group Label →					
Evidence that Fits Best in This Group					

