I. Identify your topic.

The first thing you need to do when starting a new research project is to **identify your topic**. Choose something that interests you – this will make your research more engaging and fun. It’s important to brainstorm a couple of different topics, ask questions about those topics, think about how in depth your research needs to be, how long your ultimate project is going to be, and how much time you have to complete your research.

**Topic of your Research:** ____________________________________________________

II. Gather Background Information

Once you’ve selected a topic it’s time to start your preliminary research by **gathering background information and identifying key concepts**. Use reference sources, like Grove Music Online, The Oxford History of Western Music, or even Google, to learn about the people, places, and subjects that relate to your topic.

In the space below, write down six keywords that you gleaned from gathering background data.

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  
6.  

III. The Search

Refer to the LibGuide for MUS266: History of Western Music II to answer the following questions.

a. What are the three bullet pointed search types listed under “Step 3: The Search”?

1.  
2.  
3.  

This assignment walks you through the steps of **Starting a Research Paper**, which can be found in the LibGuide for Mus266: History of Western Music II.
b. In your own words, what is an abstract? Why would you read an abstract?

c. Start your search! Find three items. You have one item for each of the three bullet pointed search types listed under “Step 3: The Search.”

Create complete and accurate citations for your items using the Music Chicago/Turabian Style Citation’s Guide. Your entry should be a bibliographic style entry, noted by the letter B before the entry. (B is for Bibliography, N is for Footnote)

1.

2.

3.
IV. Evaluate Your Findings

Refer to the MUS266: History of Western Music II LibGuide to answer the following questions.

a. What is included in your initial appraisal?

b. What is included in your content analysis?

c. Conduct an initial appraisal for one of the items you cited above. Don’t forget to tell us where you found this information!
V. What is Step 5 in the LibGuide for MUS266: History of Western Music II? How do you plan to accomplish Step 5?