Handout - Definitions of terminology

Premise: A premise is an assumption. It's a statement that is assumed to be true. The researcher's premise is the underlying ideas and starting assumptions.

Hypothesis: The hypothesis is the researcher's suggested explanation for a group of facts or phenomena: either accepted as a basis for further investigation or accepted as likely to be true.

Argument: An argument is the researcher's attempt to persuade someone of something, by giving reasons for accepting a particular conclusion as evident.

Methods: The methods are the series of steps the researcher took to acquire knowledge.

Example: In the following paragraph, underline and label the premise, hypothesis, argument, and methods.

I can't believe how much trash my family throws out every week. We completely fill up our garbage bin every week, and sometimes we have extra bags that don't even fit in the bin. I feel like we throw out way too much trash; just think...if every single person on my street alone throws out this much garbage, we must be filling up landfills like crazy. Plus, all of the stuff in the trash might decompose naturally, but we wrap it in plastic bags, which means it probably won't decompose. I bet we could throw out fewer bags of trash if we found a way to get rid of stuff that naturally would decompose on its own. It is important for us to reduce how much trash we throw out and bury in landfills, because we are destroying our planet. I want to find out how much trash the average person throws out every year and what this looks like globally. I also want to figure out how to throw out less trash. Are there easy ways to get rid of stuff, like food waste, instead of throwing it in the trash? I am going to research trash statistics online. Then I am going to interview my mom's friend who composts all of her food waste. I want to learn how to compost and I want to see if composting our food scraps will reduce how much trash we throw away into the garbage bin.

1. What words helped you determine the premise?

2. What words helped you determine the hypothesis?

3. What words helped you determine the argument?

4. What words helped you determine the methods?

Handout - Investigating the Informational Text

1. What book are you reading?

2. What is the premise the author begins with? What does the author believe about their topic?

3. What is the hypothesis of the author? What does the author think they will discover?

4. What is the argument of the author?

5. What are the author's research methods? What did they do and how did they do it?

6. Why did you choose this particular book?

7. What questions do you want answered from this book?

8. What questions in your own life or community might you want an answer from in the next month?

9. How would you go about researching these questions?