

A GUIDE TO

MATRIX THINKING



SUPERHEROES, SALVATION & THE ARCHITECTS OF UTOPIA

ME: 101 uses Matrix Maps to provide descriptive frameworks and contexts for the bits and pieces of interdisciplinary information that shape human experiences. More importantly, Matrix Thinking is the way one learns to discover, develop and connect relationships inside and outside that framework in order to create a web of meaning and a better education.

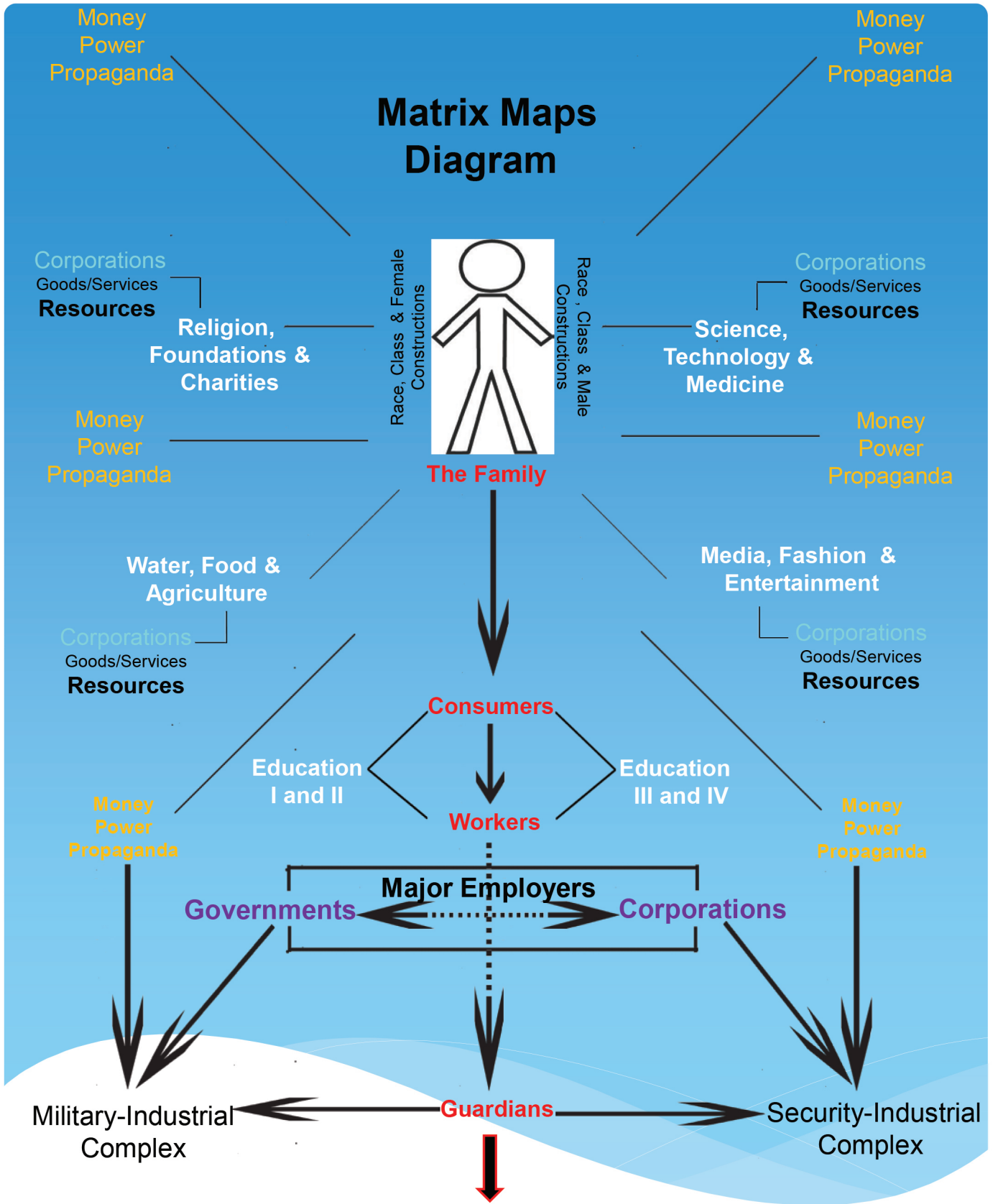
Superheroes, Salvation & the Architects of Utopia

This Matrix Map or learning guide is recommended for students interested in Political Science, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Film and Animation, History and/or International Relations.

Throughout time, people have dreamed of utopias or ideal communities beyond their current realities. Whether it is in the form of ancient legends, cartoons, literature or films such as *The Matrix*, the longing for a hero and a better world is a common sentiment among the religious and non-religious, especially during times of personal and national crisis. Visions of ideal societies have offered hope to the despondent. They have influenced the establishment of colonies, cities, immigration patterns and the aspirations of marginalized people around the world. However, utopias seldom turn out to be such ideal paradigms, as *The Autobiography of Moon County* reveals. Utopian enterprises often morph into dystopias due to bad leadership and ideology, especially when they combine to personalize problems rooted in politics and policy. This Matrix Map will provide opportunities for you to explore various utopian arrangements, both real and imagined, and why they succeed or fail. Also, it reveals how heroism, faith and hope continue to assuage discontent and inspire re-creations in spite of a long record of global tragedy.



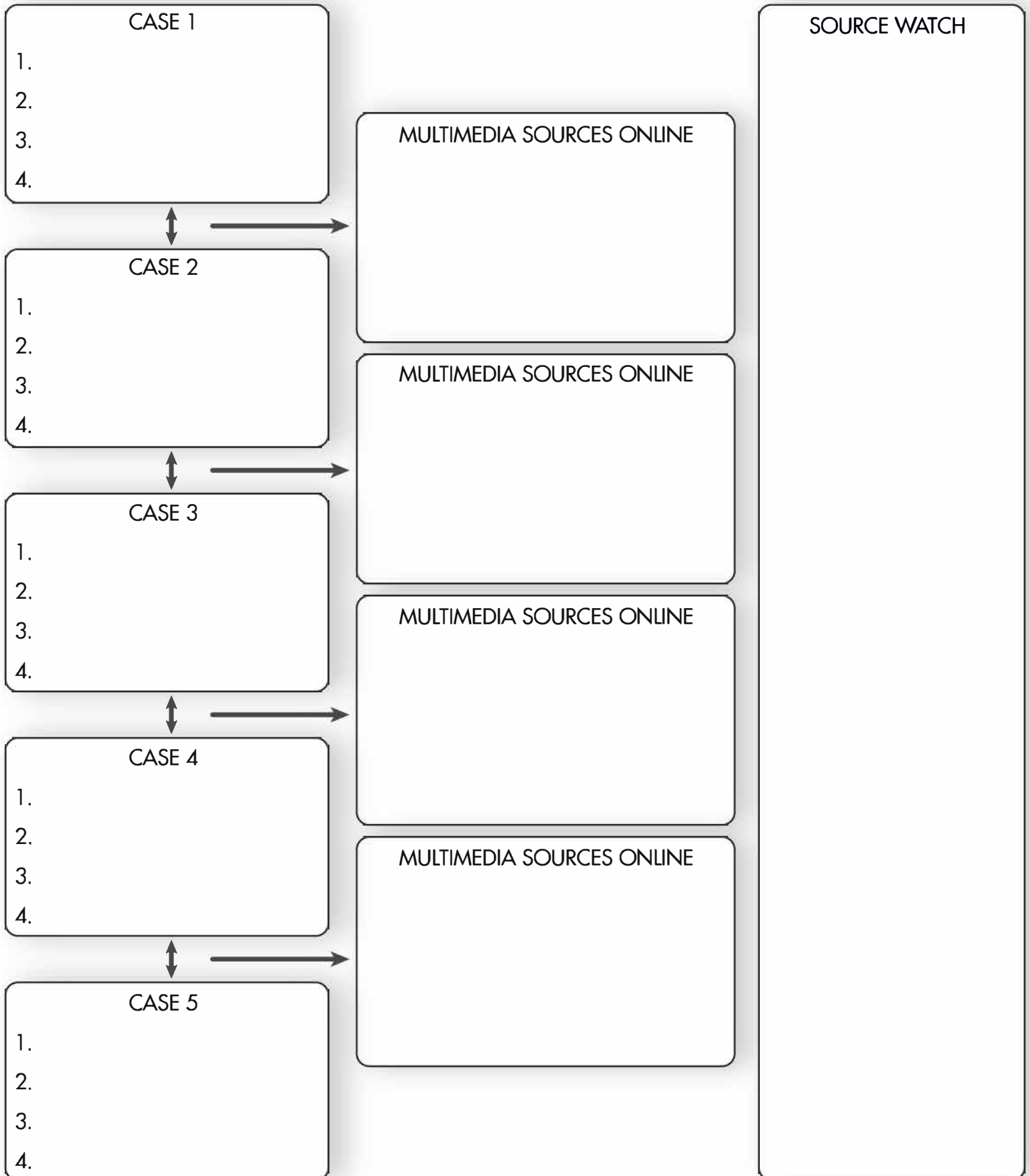
Matrix Maps Diagram



The Nation State

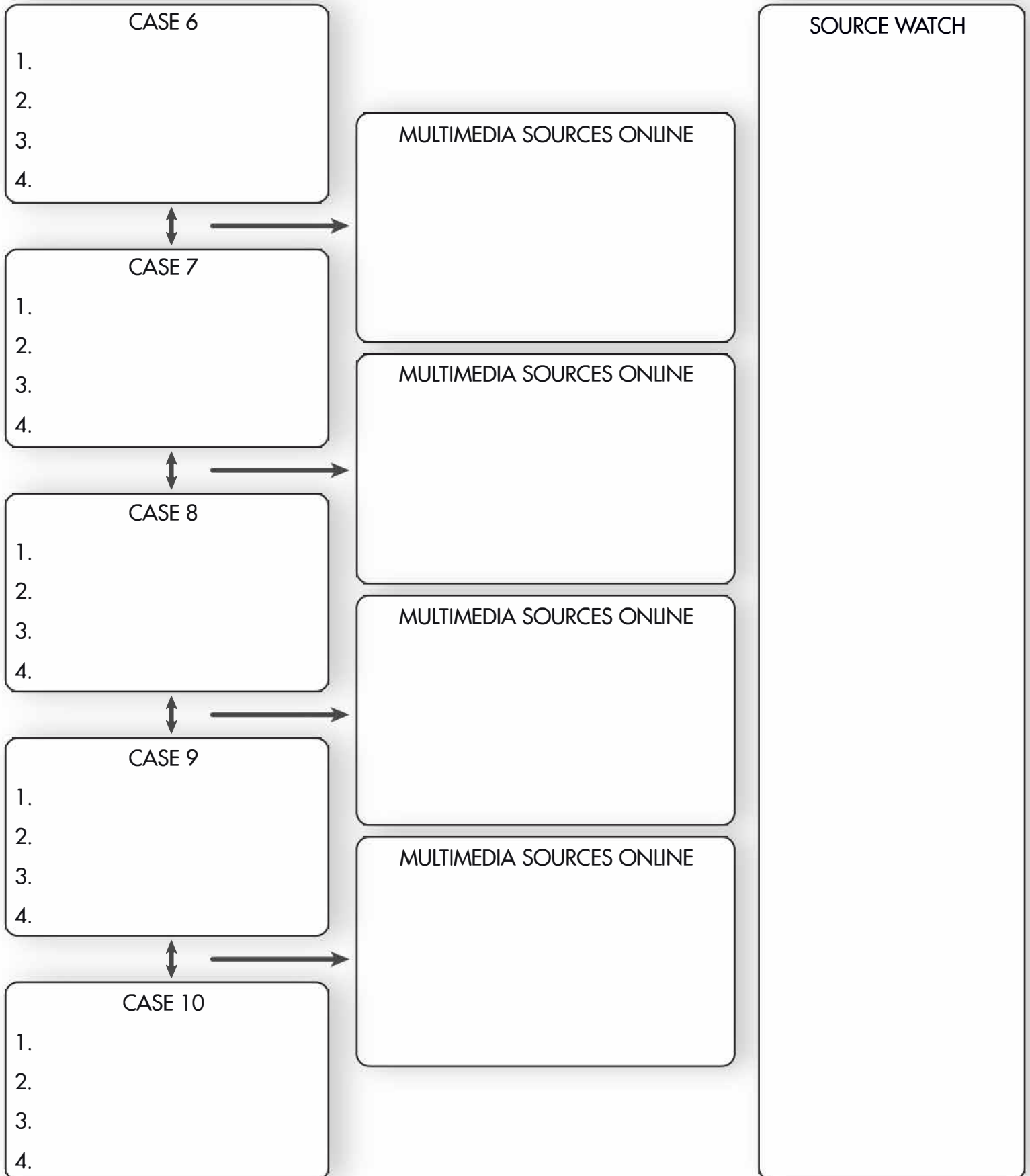
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Research the four terms in each case box to learn how they relate, then determine how one case relates to the next case. Review the multimedia sources on YouTube as needed for added depth and comprehension. Use the information for general knowledge or portfolio assignments.



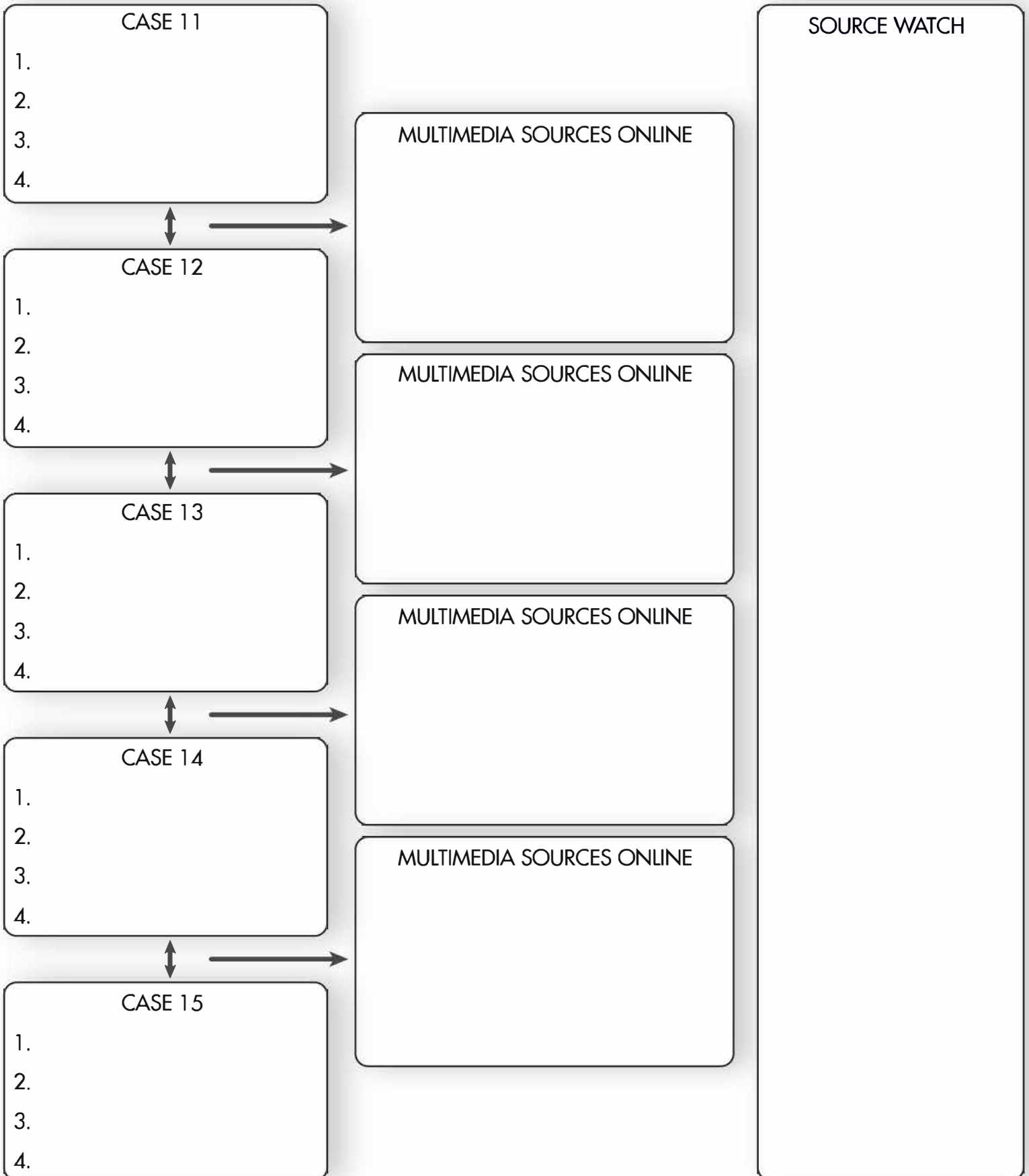
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Below is a list of assignments that you can use to develop a portfolio that documents and demonstrates your mastery of the knowledge in this Matrix Map. You will need one biography and the guides located under the portfolio resources menu at www.missed101.com. The guides are designed to help you complete the activities below. Also, they provide you with lists of other activities you can adapt or adopt for evaluation using the Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP) proficiencies and VALUE rubrics.

Activity 1: The Learning Log

In this activity, the goal is for you to familiarize yourself with descriptions of all of the biographies and Matrix Maps (learning guides). Once you select what you want to learn, you will research the four terms in each case in the Matrix Map to figure out what information the terms reveal and how that information relates to the biography. Then you will connect the knowledge and select at least one adjacent multimedia source that helps you deepen your understanding of the relationships. You will then document your connections and your summary of the multimedia source and evaluate your learning experience. Estimated pages for this activity: 7.

Activity 2: The Resume

In this activity, the goal is for you to learn how to frame your educational experiences and work experiences in a resume format that is effective, substantive and professional. You will review sample resumes and a cover letter in order to determine the best practices for the texts you hope to create for yourself. If you do not want to use your own personal information for this activity, you can revise one of the samples presented in the guide. Estimated pages for this activity: 2 to 3.

Activity 3: The Personal Narrative

In this activity, the goal is for you to learn how to frame your personal experiences or relate aspects of your history that are not necessarily appropriate for a resume or cover letter but often required for some professional and college applications. The personal narrative, sometimes called an autobiographical statement, will allow you to showcase your writing skills and communicate a significant experience that adds depth and context to your work experiences, educational background and future goals and aspirations. Estimated pages for this activity: 3 to 4.

Activity 4: The Critical Analysis Using Theory

In this activity, the goal is to help you transition from personal writing to more academic forms of writing and critical analysis using the character biography you selected. Learning how to analyze and interpret using basic or advanced theory will provide you with an opportunity to better understand the network of social relationships you encounter when using your Matrix Map and diagram. Also, it will improve your ability to think and write critically using theoretical approaches and concepts that stretch across multiple disciplines. Estimated pages for this activity: 8 to 10.

Activity 5: The Progress Report

In this activity, the goal is for you to learn how to use a progress report or proposal to assess the portfolio activities and assignments you have completed so far. You will describe any problems you may have completing the learning log, resume, personal narrative and critical analysis. You will have an opportunity to evaluate what you have learned and what could be done to improve your learning experience moving forward. Estimated pages for this activity: 2 to 3.

Activity 6: The Annotated Bibliography in APA

In this activity, the goal is for you to familiarize yourself with the basic methods and formats for putting together an annotated bibliography for two cases from your Matrix Map. The annotated bibliography is a summary of the resources that you will use to create your argumentative research paper in the style required by the latest edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines. Before writing the research paper, you will practice citing and documenting sources in the APA style. The annotated bibliography will provide you with an opportunity to learn the APA style while developing the ideas that will be used in your paper below. Estimated pages for each annotated bibliography: 2 to 3.

Activity 7: The Research Paper in APA

In this activity, the goal is for you to learn the basic strategy for writing an argumentative essay using the APA style and your annotated bibliography. You will have an opportunity to identify and learn the importance of the parts and structure of a research paper in APA and why audience, framing claims, counterarguments, rhetorical appeals and logical reasoning are all important considerations in the development of persuasive academic writing using research. Estimated pages for this activity: 8 to 10.

Activity 8: The Annotated Bibliography in MLA

In this activity, the goal is for you to familiarize yourself with the basic methods and formats for putting together an annotated bibliography for two more cases from your Matrix Map. The annotated bibliography is a summary of the resources that you will use to create your argumentative research paper in the style required by the latest edition of the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines. Before writing the research paper, you will practice citing and documenting sources in the MLA style. The annotated bibliography will provide you with an opportunity to learn the MLA style while developing the ideas that will be used in your paper below. Estimated pages for each annotated bibliography: 2 to 3.

Activity 9: The Research Paper in MLA

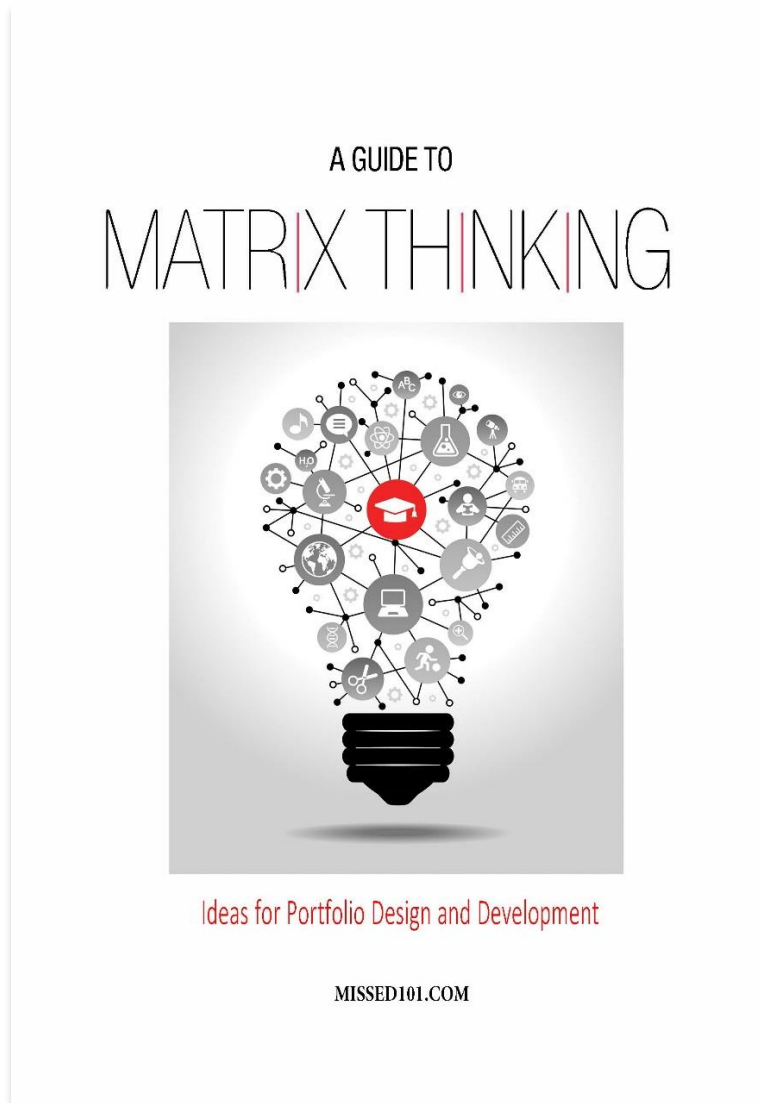
In this activity, the goal is for you to learn the basic strategy for writing an argumentative essay using the MLA style and your annotated bibliography. You will have an opportunity to identify and learn the importance of the parts and structure of a research paper in MLA style and why audience, framing claims, counterarguments, rhetorical appeals, and logical reasoning are all important considerations in the development of persuasive academic writing using research. Estimated pages for this activity: 8 to 10.

Activity 10: The Final Progress Report

In this activity, the goal is for you to use the progress report to describe your experiences completing annotated bibliographies and argumentative research papers using your Matrix Map and Learning Log. Also, you will have an opportunity to evaluate what you have learned and whether you feel you meet the proficiencies targeted for each portfolio assignment. You will be able to suggest ways to improve the effectiveness of the activities and learning experiences using Matrix Thinking and Matrix Maps. Estimated pages for this activity: 2 to 3.

Activity 11: Portfolio Presentation

In this activity, the goal is for you to complete the Portfolio Proficiency Chart and learn how to edit and revise the documents you have produced in order to present them in a portfolio. Depending on the evaluator and audience for your portfolio, you will consider the best way to compile and present your material in an organized, comprehensive and professional format. Traditionally, all of the documents completed for portfolios are collected in folders, binders or notebooks with a table of contents, session headings or tabs. The electronic portfolio is another option. Consult with your adviser or evaluator in order to learn how your final portfolio should be presented.



BIBLIOGRAPHY I

BIBLIOGRAPHY II

BIBLIOGRAPHY III

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Always Learning Outside the Box