

Preliminary Patent Search Form

This worksheet will help you evaluate your invention and prepare you for the preliminary patent search. Using the evaluation questions from the *Seven Step Strategy* for conducting preliminary patent searches, our worksheet gives you the opportunity to focus on the logistics of your invention and will help you locate other patents that are similar in nature.

1. Brainstorm Terms Describing the Invention:

a. What is the purpose of the invention? _____

b. Is It a utilitarian (useful) device or an ornamental (decorative) design?

c. Is the invention a process – a way of making something or performing a function – or is it a product? _____

d. What is the physical composition of the invention? _____

e. How is the invention used? _____

f. What are keywords or technical terms that describe the nature of the invention? _____

2. Business Plan and your invention

a. Where is the market for this invention? _____

b. What are the costs for producing this product? _____

c. Are there potential product liability issues? _____

d. Are there distribution and other concerns, etc. _____

e. How can I address those concerns within my invention? _____

3. Sketch, if applicable:

