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? __________________________

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   ________________________________________________________________

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: