Research Agenda

Purpose:

* Convince the search committee that you have an agenda that will get you tenure and promotion.
* Convince the search committee that you have depth in the research areas you claim.
* Convince the search committee that you are a good fit for the position.

Elements:

* Theoretical focus
* Methodologies
* Motivations
* Specific projects you have completed, are working on now (such as the dissertation), and future projects
* Where you will be trying to publish (journals, presses, etc.)

Also:

* If you are applying for a position that will require research, you will be expected to publish your dissertation as a book (most typical) or as several articles in well-respected journals.
* If you have more than one research interest, show the connections between these interests (a similar motivation, the same theoretical focus, etc.).
* Show your intellectual curiosity and passion.
* Keep in mind that for a tenure-track position, you have a total of 5 years to complete the research you will need to be granted tenure. (You apply for tenure at the end of your 5th year.) And remember that it can take a while for an article or book to be accepted and then be published. A period of a year or two can elapse between acceptance and publication, especially for a book.