

Preparing Your Search Strategy: Identify Key Concepts

Topic: _____

Step 1: Circle the main ideas (terms) of your topic.

Step 2: Write each term in a separate concept column. Sometimes you will only need two columns; sometimes you will need four.

Step 3: Think of words that mean the same as that term (synonyms) and write them in the correct column.

Step 4: Think of multiple endings for your term and “truncate” it so that you remember to search this way.

Truncating Tip: Find the root word. Add an asterisk to get multiple endings. Teen* = teen, teens, teenager, teenagers, teenaged

Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3	Concept 4
OR	OR	OR	OR
A N D	A N D	A N D	
OR	OR	OR	OR
A N D	A N D	A N D	
OR	OR	OR	OR