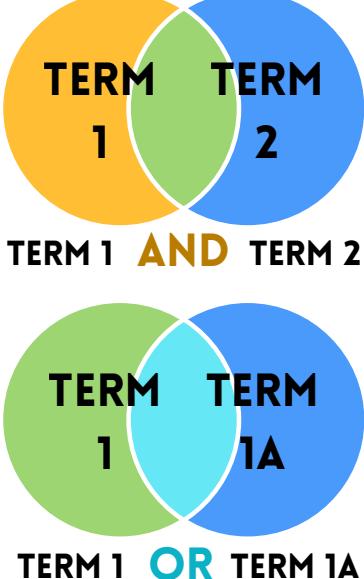


SEARCH STRATEGY TIPS

CREATING A SEARCH STRATEGY

- Identify key concepts/keywords in your topic or thesis statement.
- Identify alternate terms to your key concepts/keywords.



TRUNCATION is using an Asterisk (*) at the end of the root of a word to find all possible endings

- Useful to **EXPAND** a search
- **DRIV*** = Driving, Drive, Driven, Drives, Drivers

AND retrieves results that contain all search terms (i.e., all the results include both Term 1 AND Term 2).

- Used to **NARROW** a search
- Used to be **MORE SPECIFIC** when searching

OR retrieves results that contain any of the search terms (i.e., results can include either Term 1 OR Term 1A).

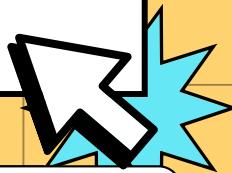
- Used to **EXPAND** a search
- Useful for searching concepts with **SIMILAR MEANINGS**

PHRASE SEARCHING is using Quotation Marks (" ") to search all words belonging to one concept.

- Useful to improve the precision of a search (e.g., **"POSITIVE INFLUENCE"**, **"COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY"**)

BEGIN YOUR RESEARCH

7 Steps for Keyano College students



REVIEW YOUR ASSIGNMENT CAREFULLY

- Highlight the required length, citation style, and the types of permitted sources
- Identify potential ideas that meet your assignment's research requirements

GET FAMILIAR WITH YOUR CHOSEN TOPIC

- Begin by **reviewing** general sources (e.g., Wikipedia, newspapers, YouTube)
- Using your new understanding, seek more discipline-specific and detailed sources (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles, eBooks, books)

CONSIDER YOUR GATHERED SOURCES

- The sources you select will determine what information you find
- **Evaluate** each source to determine if it suits your need
- Look for a variety of sources (e.g., different authors or journals) that report on the same or similar topics to help compare and assess your selected sources

MAKE ADJUSTMENTS

- Research is **an iterative process** and will involve some trial and error
- As you engage in different steps of the research process, you may need to **adjust** the focus of your topic, keywords, or research scope to meet your research needs and assignment expectations

CUSTOMIZE YOUR TOPIC

- Ask **who, what, where, when, why, and how** to focus your topic of research
- Use the answers to the above questions to help define what types of sources of information are likely to be best bets for your research

IDENTIFY KEY CONCEPTS

- Take your topic and identify the main terms - these terms will be the key concepts or keywords.
- For example, the following topic's keywords are in bold: Among **premature infants**, what is the effect of **music therapy** in reducing **stress**?

TRACK YOUR RESEARCH

- Research doesn't happen in just one sitting. Use a research template to note keywords, search strategies, and databases that have retrieved results
- Save/download all sources you think you may use



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