### My Research Strategy

**1. Write down your research question. Circle two or three concepts that are essential to the question.**

*Example:* How does violence in the media affect young children?

**2. Write each concept (or keyword) in its own box.**

*Example:* violence AND media AND children

In many databases, you can use multiple search boxes to create a more powerful search. In each box to the right, list one keyword (one concept) and any synonyms of that word. An “OR” should separate each synonym. Add your next concept and its synonyms in the second box and so on.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>violence</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>aggression OR crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>media</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>television OR movie*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>children</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>youth OR teen*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Develop a search “statement” using Boolean operators, truncation, and parentheses. Use this search statement in steps 5 through 7. *Example:* (violence OR aggress*) AND (media OR television OR movie*) AND (children OR youth OR teen*)

Once you try your search, you may find that you need to modify it:

- Too many records? Add an additional concept with AND (Example: poverty AND crime)
- Too few records? Add another, similar search term with OR (Example: college OR university)
- Too many records on an unrelated topic? Eliminate a word with NOT (Example: virus NOT computer)
- Use a truncation symbol (*) to search for variants of a word. Right-hand truncation is the most common form of truncation. It allows you to search for the first few letters of a word and retrieve additional letters to the right. *Examples:* (violence OR aggress*) AND (children OR teen*)

**4. Modified search:***

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### Need Books? Search the Library Catalog

Select *two relevant books* (List Titles/Locations/Call Numbers below):

1) ____________________________________________________________________________ Available? Yes / No
2) ____________________________________________________________________________ Available? Yes / No

### Need Articles from Journals, Magazines, or Newspapers? Search Databases

Which databases are most relevant to your topic/question? Select *three relevant databases* and list them below:

1) ____________________________________________________________________________ 2) ____________________________________________________________________________ 3) ____________________________________________________________________________

Select *two relevant articles* in these database (List Author, Title, Publication Name, Year, Volume/Issue, Page Numbers): *Use back of worksheet if needed.*

1) ____________________________________________________________________________ Full text available immediately? Yes / No
2) ____________________________________________________________________________ Full text available immediately? Yes / No

To obtain books and articles not available in Randall Library, use Interlibrary Loan (Library website – “Interlibrary Loan”)