

My Research Strategy

1	Write down your research question. Circle two or three concepts that are essential to the question.	<i>Example:</i> How does <u>violence</u> in the <u>media</u> affect young <u>children</u> ?				
2	Write each concept (or keyword) in its own box.	<i>Example:</i> violence	AND	<i>Example:</i> media	AND	<i>Example:</i> children
3	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.	<i>Example:</i> violence OR aggression OR crime <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">(_____ OR _____)</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">AND (_____ OR _____)</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">AND (_____ OR _____)</div>				
Develop a search "statement" using Boolean operators, truncation, and parentheses. Use this search statement in steps 5 through 7. <i>Example:</i> (violen* OR aggress*) AND (media OR television OR movie*) AND (child* OR youth OR teen*)						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>						
4	Once you try your search, you may find that you need to modify it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many records? Add an additional concept with AND (<i>Example:</i> poverty AND crime) • Too few records? Add another, similar search term with OR (<i>Example:</i> college OR university) • Too many records on an unrelated topic? Eliminate a word with NOT (<i>Example:</i> 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. <i>Examples:</i> (violen* OR aggress*) AND (child* OR teen*) 					
Modified search: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>						
5	Need Books? Search the <i>Library Catalog</i> (Library website - "Find Books & More")					
Select two relevant books (List Titles/Locations/Call Numbers below):						
1) _____						<i>Circle</i> Available? Yes / No
2) _____						Available? Yes / No
Need Articles from Journals, Magazines, or Newspapers? Search <i>Databases</i> (Library website - "Find ... Articles on a Topic")						
6	Which databases are most relevant to your topic/question? Select three relevant databases and list them below:					
1) _____		2) _____		3) _____		
7	Select two relevant articles in these database (List Author, Title, Publication Name, Year, Volume/Issue, Page Numbers): <i>Use back of worksheet if needed.</i>					
1) _____						<i>Circle</i> Full text available immediately? Yes No
2) _____						Full text available immediately? Yes No
<i>To obtain books and articles not available in Randall Library, use Interlibrary Loan (Library website – "Interlibrary Loan")</i>						