

## Search Strategies

### 1. Keywords (focus your search)



Break your research question into parts. Brainstorm related terms for each of the parts- these can be synonyms, related terms, broader terms, or narrower terms.

*Tip: if you are unsure of related terms, do a beginning search on Google or Wikipedia to get a brief overview. (Notice I wrote beginning search!)*

<b>Research Question:</b> example: To what extent will climate change affect sea level rise in New Hampshire?			
Break your question into parts / subtopics	A.	B.	C.
<b>Keywords:</b>	climate change	sea level rise	New Hampshire
<i>Synonyms</i>	global warming	glacial melt	New England
<i>Alternate terms</i>	greenhouse effect	ocean warming	Maine
<i>Broader terms</i>			North Atlantic
<i>Narrower terms</i>			
<i>Related terms</i>			

### 2. Phrase Searching (narrow your search)

If your topic includes any multi-word phrases (for example, "climate change"), enter those into the search bar inside quotation marks.

<div><div>"climate change"</div><div><div>×</div><div></div></div></div>
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### 3. Truncation *(broaden your search)*

If your topic includes a word or words that might have multiple endings, use an asterisk in place of the ending.

In the example below, the **\*** stands in for -s, -age, -aged, -ager, and -agers, so the search should return results for *teen*, *teens*, *teenage*, *teenaged*, *teenager*, and *teenagers*.



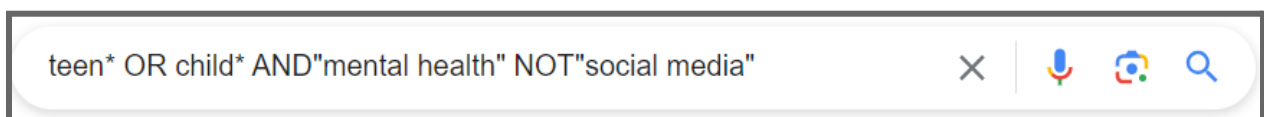
### 4. Boolean operators *(laser focus your search)*

You can use the words **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** (or in Google, use **+**, **OR**, and **-** ) to really hone your search. *Note: the words MUST be in ALL CAPS for this to work.*

**AND +** tells the search engine to bring back results that include all of the terms you indicate. This can be used to combine multiple terms or phrases.

**OR** tells the search engine to bring back results that include either one or the other of the terms you indicate, but not both. This can be used to search simultaneously for multiple synonyms.

**NOT -** tells the search engine to bring back results that do not include the terms you indicate. This can be used to filter out common but unrelated results.



## **5. Database tools** *(expand your research)*

Most of our databases include additional tools and filters to help narrow your search, but tools and their locations vary by database.

Check for menus on the left or right side of your search results for tools that allow you to filter by date, publication type, source type, topic, and more.

Check for menus on the left or right side of a specific source (after you have clicked into a result) for related articles.

Check the bottom of the page of a specific source (after you have clicked into a result) for related keywords or subjects.

## **6. Daisy-chaining** *(expand your research)*

If your search result includes its own bibliography or works cited, you can look up those resources and potentially use them as well. *Note: certain works cited may not be available based on publication subscriptions, etc.*

## Get Organized!

<b>Research Question:</b>			
Break your question into parts / subtopics	B.	B.	C.
<b>Keywords:</b>  <i>Synonyms</i>  <i>Alternate terms</i>  <i>Broader terms</i>  <i>Narrower terms</i>  <i>Related terms</i>			
<b>Phrases to search:</b>			
<b>Words to truncate:</b>			
<b>Words/phrases to combine (AND):</b>			

<b>Words/phrases to search either/or (OR):</b>			
<b>Words/phrases to exclude (NOT):</b>			