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Rethinking Your Search

Use this assignment to learn strategies for rethinking your search for better results

Part 1. Choose a research topic.

What is your research topic?

Example: *How do career centers help African American female undergraduates?*

Write down the keywords for this topic.

Example: *career centers, African American, female, undergraduate*

Part 2. Create a search string

Create a search string using connectors. (If you are not sure how, look at this tutorial: [How Do I Create a Search Strategy?](#))

Write down your search string.

Example: *career centers AND African American and female AND undergraduate*

Write down the keywords for this topic.

Part 3. Search the database

You can use any database you like. If you are not sure where to start, [Academic Search Ultimate](#) is a database that covers many topics.

How many results did you get? (If you got fewer than 20 results, take a look at your search string and make sure your connectors are used correctly)

Part 4. New Search String

If you got more than 20 results, scan your sources. Take a look at the titles and the abstracts of what you find.

What are some different words that you can use?

Example: *career counseling, black, women*

Create a new search string using these new words and write it down here.

Example: *(career centers OR career counseling) AND (African American OR black) AND (female OR women) AND undergraduate*

Repeat these steps until you find **at least two sources** you can use.

Results

Write down the citation for each of these sources:

Author

Title of article:

Title of publication:

Year:

Author:

Title of article:

Title of publication:

Year