

# Search Strategy Worksheet

1. Write out your research question.

2. Identify the key concepts (main ideas, terms).

Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3

3. Try to think of synonyms or alternate forms of a term or related terms for each concept. (For example: teen, teens, teenager, adolescent, adolescents, adolescence, young adult, youth). Use truncation to retrieve alternate forms of a word (teen\$ adolescen\$). Note: each search engine uses different symbols for truncation. The examples shown above will work for many of the OhioLINK databases. Check "Help" screens to determine the symbol for the database you are using.

	Synonym for concept 1		Synonym for concept 2		Synonym for concept 3
A		AND		AND	
	OR		OR		OR
B		AND		AND	
	OR		OR		OR
C		AND		AND	
	OR		OR		OR
D		AND		AND	
	OR		OR		OR
E		AND		AND	
	OR		OR		OR
F		AND		AND	

3. Construct a search strategy. Use connectors (AND, OR, ADJ) to express the relationship of terms to one another. (Generally: Use **OR** between synonyms. Use **AND** between concepts. Use **ADJ** for exact phrases).