

# Search Strategy Development Worksheet

1. Write down your search topic in the form of a question and underline the key words or phrases.

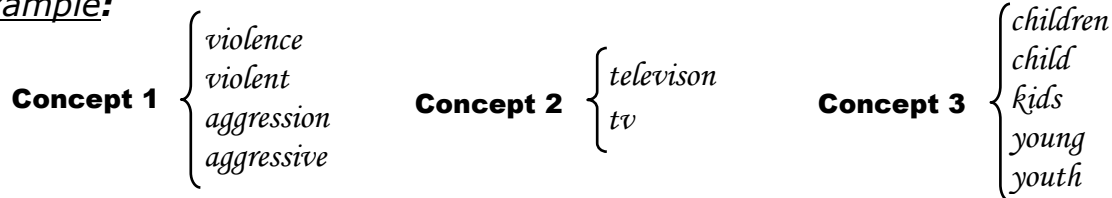
*Example:* I want information on how violence on television affects children.

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2. Divide these key words into concepts and list below. Use as many concept boxes as needed. List synonyms for each concept. Consider singular/plural forms, spelling variations, different word endings, etc.

*Example:*



	Concept 1	AND	Concept 2	AND	Concept 3
Term	-----		-----		-----
OR					
Term	-----		-----		-----
OR					
Term	-----		-----		-----

3. Construct your search strategy using Boolean operators, truncation, and parentheses.

*Example:* (violen\* OR aggressi\*) AND (television OR tv) AND (kid\* OR child\* OR young OR youth)

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- ◆ Connect the synonyms with the Boolean operator "**OR**". You must use parentheses around your synonyms connected with OR.  
*"OR" broadens your search by gathering records in which one or more of your terms appear.*
- ◆ Connect the concept sets with the Boolean operator "**AND**".  
*"AND" narrows your search by requiring that at least one term from each concept set be present.*
- ◆ Use the appropriate truncation symbol (\* ?) to search for words containing a common word root, with any number or combination of characters following that root.

