**Generating Search Terms Worksheet**

**Purpose**

Use this worksheet to develop keywords to use to search for resources related to your research question. Hover over the blue underlined words to read the definitions in the Glossary located at the end of this document.

**Search Question**

In the space below, enter the research question you have developed.

**Major Concepts**

List in the table below as many concepts related to your research question as apply. See the [example](#tyjcwt)table for help creating concepts and [synonyms](#26in1rg)to use as search terms. For help identifying synonyms, use this [online thesaurus](http://thesaurus.com/).

Note: While your textbook mentions the use of Boolean Operators in databases, you do not need to use them when accessing the Ashford University Library databases. These databases are already equipped to do this for you.

**Major Concepts Table**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CONCEPT 1** |  | **CONCEPT 2** |  | **CONCEPT 3** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| OR |  | OR |  | OR |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| OR | AND | OR | AND | OR |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| OR |  | OR |  | OR |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| OR |  | OR |  | OR |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Example Major Concepts Table**

**Search Question:** What is the connection between smoking and depression among teenagers?

**Major Concepts:** List as many as apply. (Example: smoking, depression, teenagers)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CONCEPT 1** |  | **CONCEPT 2** |  | **CONCEPT 3** |
| smoking |  | depression |  | teenagers |
| OR |  | OR |  | OR |
| cigarettes |  | mental health |  | teens |
| OR | AND | OR | AND | OR |
| tobacco |  | mood |  | adolescents |
| OR |  |  |  | OR |
| nicotine |  |  |  | youth |
|  |  |  |  | OR |
|  |  |  |  | high school students |
|  |  |  |  | OR |
|  |  |  |  | college students |

|  |
| --- |
| **Glossary**[Return to top](#30j0zll)  **Annotated bibliography:** A list of references with descriptions and a brief summary or critical statement about each one. Return  **Boolean Operators:** The words “and”, “or”, “not”. Used when searching databases for keywords. [Return](#2et92p0)  **Concept:** Ideas or notions. [Return](#3znysh7)  **Keyword:** Concept or word with significance to your research. [Return](#1fob9te)  **Research question:** The starting point for your research. This question should contain key terms or concepts (ideas) related to your research topic (Soloman, Wilson, and Taylor, 2012). [Return](#1fob9te)  **Synonyms:** Words with same or similar meaning to other words. [Return](#3znysh7)  **Thesaurus:** Tool for identifying synonyms. [Return](#30j0zll) |