

Preparing Your Search Strategy: Identify Key Concepts

Topic: What is the effect of **television** **violence** on **children**?

Step 1: Circle the main ideas (terms) of your topic.

Step 2: Write each term in a separate concept column. Sometimes you will only need two columns; sometimes you will need four.

Step 3: Think of words that mean the same as that term (synonyms) and write them in the correct column.

Step 4: Think of multiple endings for your term and “truncate” it so that you remember to search this way.

Truncating Tip: Find the root word. Add an asterisk to get multiple endings. Teen* = teen, teens, teenager, teenagers, teenaged

Concept 1		Concept 2		Concept 3		Concept 4
television	A	violen*	A	children	A	You don't need a fourth concept in this search strategy.
OR	N	OR	N	OR	D	
tv	A	aggression	A	teen*	A	
OR	N	OR	N	OR	D	
media	D	aggressive	D	toddler*	D	

NOTE: You can also try searching by using the entire phrase “television violence” -- although you will get more results by entering television AND violence