

## Preparing Your Search Strategy: Identify Key Concepts

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

**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
OR	A N D	OR	A N D	OR	A N D	OR
OR		OR		OR		OR
OR	A N D	OR	A N D	OR	A N D	OR