TIPS FOR CREATING A SEARCH STRATEGY

- Review your topic or thesis statement
- Identify the main ideas presented. These are your **Key Concepts** or **Keywords**
- Identify alternate terms (**Synonyms**) to express the same concept as your keywords. These terms may also help you locate helpful sources when searching.

**AND** retrieves results that contain all search terms (e.g. All the results include both Term 1 and Term 2).
- Used to narrow a search
- Used to be more specific when searching

Term 1 **AND** Term 2

**OR** retrieves results that contain any of the search terms (e.g. Results can include either Term 1 or Term 1A).
- Used to broaden or expand searches
- Useful when searching words with the same or similar meanings

Term 1 **OR** Term 1A

**Truncation**
- An **Asterisk** (*) is used at the end of the root of a word (in place of the suffix) to find all possible endings to a word
- Useful when expanding a search
- Driv* = Driving, Drive, Driven, Drives, Drivers

**Phrase Searching**
- **Quotation Marks** (" ") are used to search words as one entity or as a phrase
- Useful to keep multiple words together when searching as one concept
- “Cognitive Psychology”, “Positive Influence”, “Non-Profit Organization”

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