

Planning a Search Strategy

Student Learning Outcome:

Students will be able to search multiple retrieval systems for a specific research assignment.

Name _____

Instructor _____

Date & Class Time _____

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Step 1 Determine your thesis statement.

Well-chosen research statements should have two or three concepts.

Example: *Ads contribute to childhood obesity.*

Thesis: _____

Step 2 From the thesis statement identify the **main** concepts. Leave out relationship words as *reduce, add, contribute, cause, affect, effects, relate, etc.*

| <i>1st Concept</i> | <i>2nd Concept</i> | <i>3rd Concept</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | |

Step 3 After identifying the main concepts, identify related words or synonyms.

Gather ideas for search words from subject headings in library catalogs/databases or from online sources such as www.visuwords.com.

Practice identifying related words or synonyms in the boxes below.

| 1st Concept | 2nd Concept | 3rd Concept |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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