Constructing a Search Statement

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Constructing a Search Statement

**Step 1:** List the terms that might be used to describe each of the main concept(s) of your topic (use as many as needed).

For example, if your topic is on the *impact of technology on the academic achievement of home schooled students*, the main concepts are (a) technology; (b) home schooling; and (c) academic achievement.

**Step 2:** For each of the main concepts, identify synonymous or related terms which may also be used in your search statements.

*Sample Topic:*

![Image of a tree diagram](Image)

- **Concept "A"**
  - technology
  - computers
  - distance learning

- **Concept "B"**
  - academic achievement
  - grades
  - student achievement
  - academic success

- **Concept "C"**
  - home schooling
  - home programs
  - nontraditional education

**Step 3:** Enter search statement in appropriate database.

The list of terms you’ve identified (above) may be entered as a search statement, using *search operators*:

- **OR** combines the related terms for each concept, broadening the search to be more inclusive.
- **AND** narrows the search to records that include at least one of the terms from each concept group.

For example, the above terms may be combined as follows:

\[
(\text{technology OR computers OR distance learning})
\]

AND

\[
(\text{academic achievement OR grades})
\]

AND

\[
(\text{homeschooling OR home programs})
\]
# Search Statement Worksheet

Your topic statement ________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Identify terms for each aspect/concept of your topic statement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept A</th>
<th>Concept B</th>
<th>Concept C</th>
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Combine terms from each column above using the **OR** operator:

- Concept A terms: ________________ **OR** ________________ **OR** ________________
- Concept B terms: ________________ **OR** ________________ **OR** ________________
- Concept C terms: ________________ **OR** ________________ **OR** ________________

Place each group of terms (above) inside a set of parentheses and combine each group with the **AND** operator:

- Concept A terms: (________________ OR ________________ OR ________________)
- **AND**
- Concept B terms: (________________ OR ________________ OR ________________)
- **AND**
- Concept C terms: (________________ OR ________________ OR ________________)