Search Strategy Worksheet

This worksheet will help you identify ideas related to your research topic. When you complete the worksheet you will have several keywords to use when you look up journal articles in the databases.

Define Your Topic

State your research question. Be as specific as possible. Then underline the key words or phrases.

____________________________________________________________

Example: How does video game violence affect children?

Identify Your Concepts

Using the underlined keywords or phrases from above, choose two or three important ideas or concepts for your research topic.

Concept 1: ________________
Concept 2: ________________
Concept 3: ________________

Example: Concept 1: video game, Concept 2: violence, Concept 3: children

Create Synonyms

Use the concepts above to create a list of synonyms or related terms.

```plaintext
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept #1</th>
<th>A N D</th>
<th>Concept #2</th>
<th>A N D</th>
<th>Concept #3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td></td>
<td>_________</td>
<td></td>
<td>_________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| OR
| _________  |       | _________  |       | _________  |
| _________  |       | _________  |       | _________  |
```
Example:

- Concept #1: AND
  - video game
  - electronic games
  - computer games

- Concept #2: AND
  - violence
  - aggression
  - violent

- Concept #3: AND
  - children
  - youth
  - young people

Search Statement

Use the concepts and synonyms from above to create a search statement. A search statement is a combination of keywords or phrases that help you find relevant articles in the databases. Use these words to combine your keywords:

**AND:** narrows your search by requiring that both of your keywords be in the article

**OR:** broadens your search by gathering articles that have one or more keywords

**NOT:** narrows your search by excluding articles that include a particular keyword

Example:

- video game AND violent AND children