

Planning Your Keyword Search Example

1. Describe your search as a question or sentence. How does exposure to smokers affect children who have asthma?

2. What are the major topics or concepts included in the search question or sentence?

Topic/Concept 1	Topic/Concept 2	Topic/Concept 3
<u>smoking</u> AND	<u>children</u> AND	<u>asthma</u>

3. What synonyms, alternative words, and/or related words also describe the major topics or concepts?

Topic/Concept 1	Topic/Concept 2	Topic/Concept 3
OR <u>secondhand smoke</u>	OR <u>child</u>	OR _____
OR <u>second hand smoke</u>	OR <u>pediatrics</u>	OR _____
OR	OR	OR _____

4. Use the major topics, synonyms and alternative words listed above to write a search strategy. Place quotation marks around word phrases. Use a truncation symbol (asterisk is most common) when appropriate. Remove unwanted keywords from your search using NOT.

(smoking OR "secondhand smoke" OR "second hand smoke") AND

(children OR child OR pediatric*) AND

asthma NOT

(teens OR teenage* OR adolescen*)

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2. What are the major topics or concepts included in the search question or sentence?		
Topic/Concept 1	Topic/Concept 2	Topic/Concept 3
_____ <i>AND</i>	_____ <i>AND</i>	_____
3. What synonyms, alternative words, and/or related words also describe the major topics or concepts?		
Topic/Concept 1	Topic/Concept 2	Topic/Concept 3
<i>OR</i> _____	<i>OR</i> _____	<i>OR</i> _____
<i>OR</i> _____	<i>OR</i> _____	<i>OR</i> _____
<i>OR</i> _____	<i>OR</i> _____	<i>OR</i> _____
4. Use the major topics, synonyms and alternative words listed above to write a search strategy. Place quotation marks around word phrases. Use a truncation symbol (asterisk is most common) when appropriate. Remove unwanted keywords from your search using NOT.		
(_____ <i>OR</i> _____ <i>OR</i> _____ <i>OR</i> _____) <i>AND</i>		
(_____ <i>OR</i> _____ <i>OR</i> _____ <i>OR</i> _____) <i>AND</i>		
(_____ <i>OR</i> _____ <i>OR</i> _____ <i>OR</i> _____) <i>NOT</i>		
(_____ <i>OR</i> _____ <i>OR</i> _____ <i>OR</i> _____)		