

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	<u>allergies</u>
OR <u>second hand smoke</u>	OR	<u>pediatrics</u>	OR	<u>allergy</u>
OR <u>smokers</u>	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. Most databases do not require that AND, OR, NOT be typed in upper case, but PubMed is the exception!

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

(child* OR pediatric*) AND

(asthma OR allerg*) 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

_____ *AND* _____ *AND* _____

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 _____
OR _____
OR _____

OR _____
OR _____
OR _____

OR _____
OR _____
OR _____

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(_____ *OR* _____ *OR* _____ *OR* _____) *AND*
 (_____ *OR* _____ *OR* _____ *OR* _____) *AND*
 (_____ *OR* _____ *OR* _____ *OR* _____) *NOT*
 (_____ *OR* _____ *OR* _____ *OR* _____)