

Instructions:

1. Write a brief question describing your research topic (preliminary research question).
2. Divide the question into concepts (i.e., main ideas). List these under Concept 1, Concept 2, etc. List keywords/synonyms/related terms or subject headings/descriptors below each concept (use the **subject index** or **thesaurus** to identify subject headings/descriptors, or look for them within your search results).
3. Create several search statements. Use the database's Help or Search Tips links to find examples of how to do this. For example, related terms are grouped together within **parentheses** using **or**. Concepts are linked together using **and**. Use **quote marks** to search for an exact phrase. Use a **truncation** symbol to represent alternate word endings where appropriate, or a **wildcard** symbol to represent one character (**these operators are database-specific**). Use **field codes (these are database-specific)** to search in the article title, subject, abstract, or other field. **Limit** by date, peer-reviewed journals, or other criteria. [SEE EXAMPLE BELOW.]
4. Choose the database(s) best covering your topic. Begin preliminary searching.
5. Critically evaluate your results and modify subsequent searching accordingly, using various search statements and including controlled vocabulary (subject headings/descriptors) you discover.
6. Revise your research question and repeat any steps as needed.

Preliminary Research Question: EXAMPLE: What are some ways children of migrant workers receive schooling?

Concepts and Terms:

CONCEPT 1	AND	CONCEPT 2	AND	CONCEPT 3	AND....
child*		migrant in article title		school*	
OR student?		OR "migrant worker?" in article title		OR educat*	
OR		OR		OR	
OR		OR		OR	
OR		OR		OR	

Search Statements: EXAMPLE: (child* or student?) and ti(migrant or "migrant worker?") and (school* or educat*)

Database(s): EXAMPLE: EBSCO Academic Search Premier = 97 hits for above search statement, 60 of which are scholarly or peer-reviewed.

Revised Research Question(s): EXAMPLE: What are several of the top challenges in educating children of migrant workers, and what strategies address these challenges?