



## Using Keywords for Your Research

### QUESTIONS?



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you with any research help.



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## DEFINE A TOPIC



Your instructor may assign you a research topic. If not, choose a topic that interests you or that you may be familiar with. Once you pick a topic, develop a thesis statement.

## BE SPECIFIC



Be specific with your thesis statement by making it narrow, focused and not too broad. For example: *Children who play video games are more likely to be violent.*

## IDENTIFY KEYWORDS



From your thesis statement, identify keywords or key concepts that will help you get better search results when conducting research. From the above thesis statement: *children*, *video games*, and *violent* are considered keywords.

## DEVELOP SYNONYMS



Synonyms are words that have a similar meaning. Developing synonyms from keywords can help you conduct a more effective search. For example, the synonyms from the above keywords would be:

children

child  
youth  
kids

video games

computer games  
gaming  
electronic games

violent

violence  
aggressive  
antisocial behavior

## START SEARCHING



Start searching by trying different combinations of keywords and synonyms and connecting them with the words AND, OR, and NOT. These word connectors link together two or more terms to either narrow or broaden your search. For example:

*youth AND "computer games" AND violence*  
*kids AND (gaming OR "electronic games") AND behavior*