Worksheet for Planning your Literature Search

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| Step 1: What information are you looking for? Write out an ideal article title, e.g., “Personal Characteristics that Influence How People Respond When Faced with Moral Dilemmas.” | | | |
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| Step 2: Identify the main concepts in your topic, e.g., personal characteristics, moral dilemmas. Write each concept in one of the boxes below. (Note: most likely you will have around 2-3 concepts in a search.) | | | |
| *Concept 1* | *Concept 2* | *Concept 3* | *Concept 4* |
| Step 3: Create lists of words or phrases that describe each of your concepts above. Take into account variations in terminology, synonyms, alternate terms, and broader and narrower terms. | | | |
| *Keywords for Concept 1* | *Keywords for Concept 2* | *Keywords for Concept 3* | *Keywords for Concept 4* |
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| Step 4: To turn this into a logical search statement, connect the terms in each box with ORs (broadening the search) and those in different columns with ANDs (narrowing the search). See the other side of this worksheet for an example. | | | |
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