

Search Strategy - Skyline College Library

1. Identify your research topic or research question. Be specific, not general. For example:

How has fast food contributed to the childhood obesity epidemic?

2. Divide your research topic or question into basic key ideas, called "concepts." Example:

- ***fast food***
- ***children***
- ***obesity***

3. Write other words or phrases that might be used for each concept; put quotes around phrases (multiple words to be searched together, e.g. "fast food"); write **OR** between different words or phrases for each concept. Example:

- ***"fast food"***
- ***children OR teens OR "young people" OR adolescents***
- ***obesity OR overweight***

Article Databases on the Library Website

Best place to search for high quality academic sources is: "**Super Search**" on library home page (skylinecollege.edu/library) (Includes articles from academic journals, magazines & newspapers, plus eBooks and library books in all subject areas)

Directions for using *Super Search* search engine

- To search for more than one "concept", click on **Advanced Search** below the Search box.
- In the first search box, type the search word(s) for one concept related to your topic. Type an **OR** between synonymous words for the same concept, e.g. ***children OR teens OR "young people" OR adolescents***
- Repeat the same step in subsequent search boxes for additional concepts
- Click the "**Search**" button to begin a search
- When the results page is displayed, click on a source title to see detailed information and an article summary
- To see the full-text of an article, click on a **Full Text** link (e.g. **HTML Full Text**) at the upper left side of the page.
- To e-mail an article, click on the e-mail button at the right of the article
- To include a formatted article citation, select your desired format (e.g. MLA) in the email dialog box
- To do a Google search with the same search words already entered, click "**Search**" in the Google box on the "**Extend Your Search**" column on the right side of the results page

Google Tips

Include all search words for all concepts in your Google search, e.g.

"fast food" children OR teens OR "young people" OR adolescents obesity OR overweight

a. Use quote marks (" ") around search phrases (multiple words to be searched together, e.g. "fast food")

b. Use **OR** between words for the same concept

c. Limit searches to sites from a specific web domain (e.g. .edu, .gov, .org):

- add the following to your search: ***site:.edu*** or: ***site:.gov*** or: ***site:.org*** (***-site:.com*** eliminates .com sites)

- you can also limit to a specific website, e.g.: ***site:nytimes.com*** will limit a search to the *NY Times* website.

d. Find other pages on similar topics by using Google's "**similar**" option:

Obesity Action Coalition » Fast Food – Is it the Enemy?
www.obesityaction.org » ... » Resource Articles » Nutrition ← **Click here**
Since 1970, the amount of fast food restaurants in business
population is affected by obesity and 19 percent of children

Cached

h ... U.S.

nts ...

Similar

← **Then here**

e. Limit by time period:

Click on "**Search Tools**" at the top of the

results page; then click on "**Any Time**" pull-down menu.