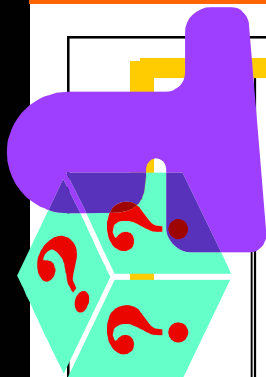


Worksheet: Choosing Your Research Topic



Mapping out your search strategy

1	A general topic. Just a rough idea.	(Write your idea here; it can be a couple of words.)		
2	Write down a question regarding your topic.	(Narrow down your topic with a specific issue—focus!)		
3	Underline two or three concepts essential to your question.			
4	Write each essential concept at the top of its own column separated by AND	term 1	term 2	term 3
		— or —	— or —	— or —
		— or —	— or —	— or —
		— or —	— or —	— or —
		— or —	— or —	— or —
		— or —	— or —	— or —
		— or —	— or —	— or —
		and	and	and
		and	and	and
		and	and	and
		and	and	and
		and	and	and
		and	and	and
5	Use the columns to list synonyms under each concept (keywords that have similar meaning for each concept) separated by OR			
		Enter a search query in a database or search engine using some of the combinations of search terms above, separated by AND or OR (this is called Boolean searching).		