Remember that most databases want you to search for important terms and not whole sentences. In order to conduct the most efficient search on your topic, you will need to select those terms from your research question.

What is your research question?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

What are the major terms in your question?

________________________________
________________________________
________________________________

Are there any other words that could be used for those terms?

___________________________________
___________________________________
___________________________________
___________________________________

Did you get too many results? What words could narrow your search?

____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

To combine terms in your search, use **AND**
To broaden your search, use **OR**
To leave out a term, use **NOT**

Truncation, or using ? or *, can be helpful for finding different forms of a word (such as singular or plural)