

Using a Topic Sentence to Build a Search Query  
Library Workshop

My Topic Sentence (circle keywords):

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Keywords from above	Synonym	Synonym	Synonym

**Building a query:**

Decide which the most important words are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary words:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Use these words in the appropriate database, the most appropriate for this course are:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Use the advanced search box (always!) and use the Boolean features as well as the drop down menus to refine and limit your search. Use the important words as subjects, and try the secondary words as words within citation and abstract. You can see the secret language of databases if you look in the subject headings or topic tabs, if your search is not producing results try that back-door tactic.

What was successful for you (circle the selection you made for each word)?

\_\_\_\_\_ as subject / abstract and citation  
\_\_\_\_\_ as subject / abstract and citation  
\_\_\_\_\_ as subject / abstract and citation  
\_\_\_\_\_ as subject / abstract and citation

**Peer Reviewed Articles:**

Some databases allow you to use check boxes or revised search options to search for peer reviewed documents. Other times you may have to look at the journal the article is published in and do a Google search for the journal name and the term "peer reviewed".