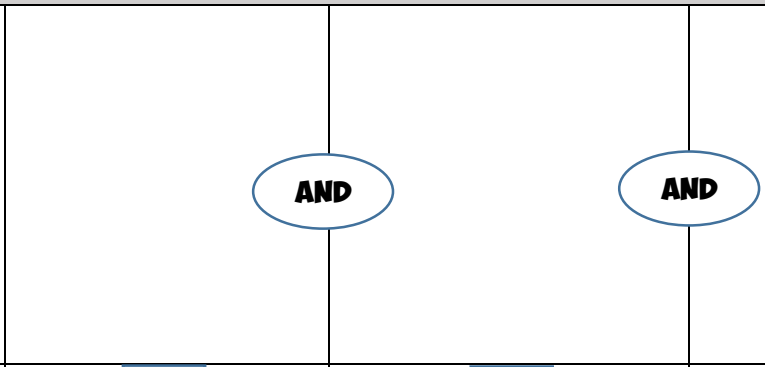
DEVELOPING A SEARCH STRATEGY: WORKSHEET

Step 1	Get a rough idea	(I want to write a paper about…) Example: Violent video games
Step 2	Think of a specific question you want to answer	(What do you want to find out about this topic?) Example: Does playing violent video games affect ego enhancement?
Step 3	What are the best sources of information for this topic? (books, databases, newspapers, statistical sources, blogs, magazines, websites, archival material, etc?). Make a list.	
Step 4	What are the key concepts in your question? These will become your keywords when searching.	
Step 5	Write each keyword in its own column	
Step 6	Write any synonyms, alternate spellings (including singular and plurals), as well as broader or narrower terms for each concept	

Adapted from Reynolds Library: http://library.reynolds.edu/internal/handouts/searchstrategyws.pdf