

Conceptualizing a Research Topic

In order to find information on a topic, you must translate your topic, thesis, or question into **keywords** that you can then use when searching the library's catalog, journal article databases, or a search engine on the World Wide Web.

Ex: *Do learning styles make a difference in how girls learn math?*

<u>Concept 1</u> (keywords)	AND	<u>Concept 2</u>	AND	<u>Concept 3</u>
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____

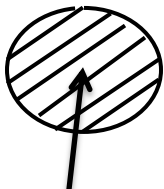
Ex: *How does participating in the arts affect how well a student does in school?*

<u>Concept 1</u> (keywords)	AND	<u>Concept 2</u>	AND	<u>Concept 3</u>
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____

Now, try your own topic.

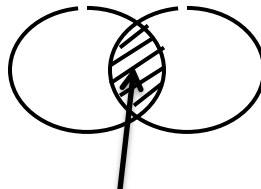
Your Topic: _____

<u>Concept 1</u> (keywords)	AND	<u>Concept 2</u>	AND	<u>Concept 3</u>
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____



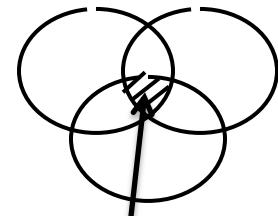
Results
(a high number)

Concept 1



Results
(less)

Concept 1 **and** Concept 2



Results
(even less, **but** more focused)

Concept 1 **and** Concept 2
and Concept 3