

# Conceptualizing a Research Topic

(SAMPLE)

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**?

<b>Concept 1</b> (keywords)	AND	<b>Concept 2</b>	AND	<b>Concept 3</b>
<u>learning styles</u>		<u>girls</u>		<u>math</u>
<u>cognitive style</u>		<u>females</u>		<u>mathematics</u>
<u>teaching style</u>		<u>single - sex education</u>		<u>math comprehension</u>

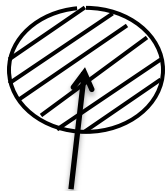
Ex: How does participating in **the arts** affect **how well** a **student** **does in school**?

<b>Concept 1</b> (keywords)	AND	<b>Concept 2</b>	AND	<b>Concept 3</b>
<u>the arts</u>		<u>academic achievement</u>		<u>student</u>
<u>music (ei. <b>band</b> or <b>orchestra</b>)</u>		<u>academic performance</u>		<u>high school</u>
<u>drama (or <b>dance</b>)</u>		<u>student attitudes</u>		<u>elementary school</u>

Now, try your own topic.

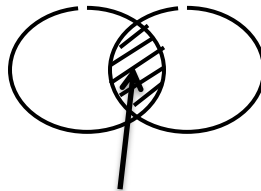
**Your Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

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



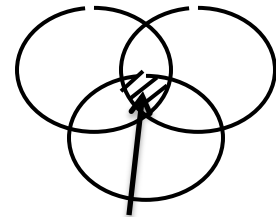
Results  
(a high number)

Concept 1



Results  
(less)

Concept 1 **and** Concept 2



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

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