SEARCH STRATEGY SHEET

1. Identify and develop your topic

What topic are you researching? State your topic in a complete sentence.

What are the keywords (main concepts) from your topic sentence?

What other synonyms (words that express the same idea) could be used for those keywords?

Keyword: _______________  Keyword: _______________  Keyword: _______________

Synonym: _______________  Synonym: _______________  Synonym: _______________

Synonym: _______________  Synonym: _______________  Synonym: _______________

Suggested Database(s) for your search:

________________________                 ______________________       __________________

2. Create a Search Statement (How you search for results)

Boolean Connectors terms (AND-OR-NOT) will help you construct a search for the computer to perform.

AND is used to join words or phrases when both (or all) the terms must appear in the items you retrieve. **Example: school violence AND students**

OR is used to join related terms, thus broadening your search results. **Example: high blood pressure OR hypertension**

NOT is used to exclude words from your search results. **Example: Women NOT Men**