

## Fill out the following guide prior to beginning library research.

- What do you want to know?...find out?...know more about?  
(complete the following sentence describing your interest)

I want to know about: \_\_\_\_\_

- Assign one word as the main topic of the above sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_

- Think of synonyms for this word.

\_\_\_\_\_

- What else do you want to know about your topic? (Think of supporting concepts or keywords)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Should you narrow your topic further by time, place or persons?

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_

Persons \_\_\_\_\_

- Re-write a research question or statement using a combination of the terms above that will be the focus of your researching. (Thesis statement)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Re-write your research question into language the search instrument can understand. Basic Formula = (main topic OR synonym) AND/+ (supporting concept) AND/+ (supporting concept) NOT/- (excluded concept)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Try it out and adjust research question as needed using various combinations of terms from this exercise.