1. a. Write your **research question** or **statement**.

1. If you could keep only **3 keywords or short phrases**, which ones would you keep? **Circle them**.
2. Now **rank** those keywords in order of importance: 1 = ESSENTIAL, 2 = MODERATE priority, 3 = LOWEST priority.

2. a. **Use the grid below** to **write** your 3 circled & ranked keywords or phrases **across** in the first row.

1. **Brainstorm** at least **2 new related keywords or phrases** for each ranked keyword or phrase.
2. **Write** these new keywords or phrases **down** in each column underneath its related word or phrase.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** = ESSENTIAL |  | **2** = MODERATE priority |  | **3** = LOWEST priority |
|  | **AND** |  | **AND** |  |
| **or** |  | **or** |  | **or** |
|  | **AND** |  | **AND** |  |
| **or** |  | **or** |  | **or** |
|  | **AND** |  | **AND** |  |

3. a. **Use the grid above** to **create** a variety of search strings & **try** them in **2 different search tools** (databases.)

b. Below, **write** the **names of the tools** (databases) you used.

c. Write out your **FIRST and** then your **BEST search string** used in each tool (database). Don’t forget the **AND**!

d.Record the **number of hits** you got for your FIRST and then your BEST search string.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Search tool (database):** | **# of hits** |
| **First search string:** |  |
| **Best search string:** |  |
| **Search tool (database):** | **# of hits** |
| **First search string:** |  |
| **Best search string:** |  |



4. Which **tool** (database) would you select as a **Best Bet? Draw a next to that tool’s name & share 3 reasons why:**

5. **Oh no! One of your classmates was absent today. How would you explain “searching is strategic” to them?**

**Purpose:  Students will understand that Searching is a Strategic Exploration**

**Skills:** The purpose of this activity is to help you practice the following skills essential to your success in school and beyond.

In this activity you will:

S.1. Understand how search tools are organized

S.2. Brainstorm keywords and select sources

S.3. Match information needs to a search tool

S.4. Design and refine a search strategy

**Knowledge:** This activity will also help you become familiar with the following important content knowledge:

K.1. First attempts don't always produce good results

K.2. Information sources vary greatly in content and format

K.3. Recognize the value of browsing in gathering information

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