Dissect Your Research Topic

Name:
Class/Section:

Dissecting your research topic helps you identify concepts or keywords to use as you search for information. It helps you identify what you already know, provides you with an opportunity to think about your research topic in new ways, and identifies gaps in your knowledge.

This should be completed before you begin your initial database search in a library database.

Directions

1. Write your initial research topic in the space below and underline the keywords or keyword phrases.

2. Write a separate keyword or keyword phrase in each box. Add alternative keywords or keyword phrases (think synonyms) for each of them. You will use different combinations of these when you do your initial database searches for review/original research articles.

Handout adapted from Univ. of Illinois by Paige Dhyne, Science Librarian at Furman University; Last updated: 06/19