1  **RESEARCH TOPIC / QUESTION**

2  **BRAINSTORM KEYWORDS**

Add to the list as you do your research.

Use [Credo Reference](https://www.credoreference.com) for background information and possible keywords.

Example question: Does capital punishment deter criminal behavior? Keywords for this example are in gray below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Concept</th>
<th>2nd Concept</th>
<th>3rd Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Synonyms &amp; Related Terms</td>
<td>“capital punishment”</td>
<td>deter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“death penalty”</td>
<td>Stop, prevent, discourage</td>
<td>Crime, “criminal offenses”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broader/Narrower Concepts</td>
<td>Sentence, sentencing</td>
<td>influence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 USE YOUR KEYWORDS TO SEARCH FOR INFORMATION

**AND:** Narrow your search to find articles that contain all of your keywords.

For example: “capital punishment” AND crime AND deter will find only articles that contain all 3 of those terms.

**Put phrases in quotation marks**

For example: “capital punishment” or “death penalty.”

**OR:** Broaden your search with synonyms or related terms.

For example: “capital punishment” OR “death penalty” will find articles with one of those two phrases, but not necessarily both.

**Use * to cover all of your bases**

Put an * in a word to find all forms of a word. For example: crim* will find crime, criminal, and criminals.

4 FIND PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

4.1 NAME OF DATABASE

4.2 KEYWORDS USED

4.3 NOTES ABOUT THIS DATABASE:

Does this database contain relevant results? Can you narrow your results by topic, date, peer-reviewed journal? Can you easily access the full text or email the article to yourself for later use?

4.4 WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS DATABASE TO YOUR CLASSMATES? WHY OR WHY NOT?