

Combining Keywords Worksheet

This worksheet illustrates combining keywords using the standard search terms: **AND**, **OR**, **NOT**. Each circle represents the full set of results (articles, books, etc.) that will be found using the indicated keyword. Consult a librarian if you need assistance.

Sample Topic: Discuss the impact of physical activity on the academic performance of children.
 Sample keywords connected with AND: physical activity, academic performance, children

OR OR
 AND OR OR
 AND OR OR

Search results where all three keywords appear.

To expand your search consider potential synonyms for “physical activity”.
 Sample synonyms for the keyword “physical activity”: sports, exercise.

OR OR
 AND OR OR
 AND OR OR

Search results where any of the three keywords appear.

To narrow this topic, consider removing unwanted areas, e.g. high school.

OR OR
 AND OR OR
 NOT OR OR

Search results where the keywords (physical activity OR sports OR exercise) AND (children OR kids OR students) appear, but NOT high school.

Test your knowledge: Generate relevant keywords and place them in the appropriate search boxes using standard search terms: **AND, OR, NOT**. You may not require all the search boxes. Suggested solutions are on the next page.

Topic: Trace the rise of British urbanization against the backdrop of industrialization.

Relevant Keywords: _____

AND	(<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>)
AND	(<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>)
AND	(<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>)

Topic: Identify major non-environmental obstacles to the development of the Alberta bitumen sands.

Relevant Keywords: _____

AND	(<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>)
AND	(<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>)
AND	(<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>)

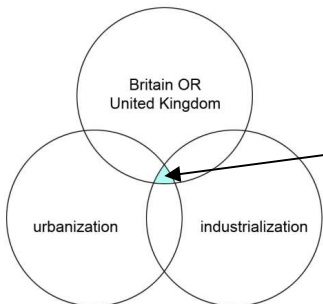
Your own topic or question: _____

AND	(<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>)
AND	(<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>)
AND	(<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>)

Suggested Solutions

Topic: Trace the rise of British urbanization against the backdrop of industrialization.
 Relevant Keywords: Britain, United Kingdom, urbanization, industrialization

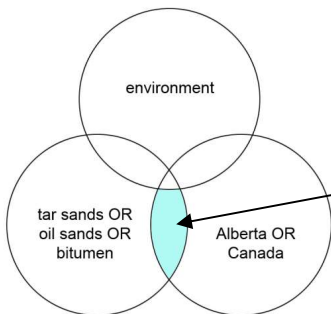
(Britain OR United Kingdom OR)
 AND (urbanization OR) OR
 AND (industrialization OR) OR



Search results where the keywords (Britain or United Kingdom), urbanization and industrialization appear.

Topic: Identify major non-environmental obstacles to the development of the Alberta bitumen sands.
 Relevant Keywords: Tar sands, oil sands, bitumen, Alberta, Canada, environment

(tar sands OR oil sands OR bitumen)
 AND (Alberta OR Canada OR)
 NOT (environment OR) OR



Search results where the keywords (tar sands or oil sands or bitumen) and (Alberta or Canada) appear, but not environment.