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

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

To narrow this topic, consider removing unwanted areas, e.g. 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: _______________________________________________________

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

Your own topic or question: ________________________________________________


Suggested Solutions

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

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