

# SAMPLE: RESEARCH STRATEGY WORKSHEET

**Summarize your topic:** Write one or two sentences about your topic:

**“I’m studying how media affects the female self image because I want to find out how it influences teenage girls desire to stay thin.**

**Identify key concepts:** The concepts are usually verbs or nouns. The concepts can be a single word or phrase.

Concept #1	Concept #2	Concept #3
Media	Self-Image	Female

**Find synonyms and related terms:** Use secondary literature sources (encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, etc. ) to find synonyms, alternative spellings, variant endings, acronyms, narrower & broader terms.

For this example:

**Media:** *Mass Media, Television, Advertising, Magazines, Internet*

**Self-Image:** *Self-perception, Body Image, Cultural Identity*

**Female:** *Adolescent Girls, Teenage Girls, Women*

**Construct a search strategy:** Use truncation symbols to retrieve variant endings of a word. **USE BOOLEAN OPERATORS: AND, OR, NOT, BUT**

	Concept #1		Concept #2		Concept #3
Synonyms for concept 1	MEDIA	And	SELF-IMAGE	Or	FEMALE
Synonyms for concept 1	Mass Media	And	Self-perception	Or	Adolescent Girls
Synonyms for concept 2	Television	And	Body image	Or	Teenage girls
Synonyms for concept 3	Advertising	And	Cultural Identity	Or	Women

**Refine your research strategy after using one source:**

Every time you do a search, examine your results. Is there new information that alters your summary statement? If yes, repeat steps stated above.

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	Concept #1		Concept #2		Concept 3
Synonyms for concept 1					
Synonyms for concept 1					
Synonyms for concept 2					
Synonyms for concept 3					

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