Topic: The impact of video games on adolescent development

Step 1: Identify some keywords from your topic

video games
adolescent

Step 2: Find alternative words (synonyms) for each search term

Video games OR virtual games OR computer games OR online games
Adolescent OR teenagers OR youth OR juvenile

Step 3: Combine search terms using Boolean Operators (AND, OR)

You need to communicate with the database using Boolean logic.

**AND** - Use AND to combine the different concepts eg, video games AND adolescent AND also helps you narrow down your results, if you retrieve too many results.

**OR** - Use OR to combine terms that are similar or mean the same eg, adolescent OR teenager OR also helps broaden your results, if you retrieve very few results.

Video games OR computer games OR online games AND Adolescent OR teenagers OR juvenile

Step 4: Apply other search tips to make it a more efficient search

**Truncations** *

Add * to the end of a word to retrieve any words beginning with these specified letters and other additional characters. Eg, child* retrieves children, childhood, childish.
**Wildcard ?**

Add ? to the middle or end of a word to retrieve the plural of a word or to indicate alternate spelling eg, organi?e retrieves organise OR organize.

**Phrase searching “ “**

This allows you to search for documents containing an exact sentence or phrase. It tells the database to find documents in which these terms appear together eg, “video games” OR “computer games”. If you don't use the quotation marks, the words will be searched separately, and this could give you a lot of irrelevant results!