



# Research Plan

Research Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Search Vocabulary

Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3

## Search Statements

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

## Resources

### Disciplines

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### Resources

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Research Plans (Directions)

The purpose of the Research Plan is to allow you to think critically about the beginnings of the research process.

## Research Question

State your topic in the form of a question.

## Search Vocabulary

After you have developed your thesis statement and preliminary outline, circle the main concepts from them. These are the basis of your search vocabulary.

The search vocabulary provides a language with which you can search for your concepts. As you search this vocabulary will evolve and change. List each of your concepts and using the questions below generate a beginning search vocabulary.

### Generating a Research Vocabulary

1. *What are some synonyms or related terms for this concept?*
  - a. France/French
  - b. theater/theatre/drama
2. *List any broader or narrower versions for the concept.*
  - a. Art-music, paintings, sculpture, drama
3. *List both the laymen and medical terms*
  - a. High Blood Pressure/Hypertension
4. *Star any term that could be either plural, singular or a word variation.*
  - a. theater could also be theatre
5. *Subject Heading and Descriptors (Controlled Vocabulary)*
  - a. As you start searching add any words used as Subject Headings or Descriptors.

### Be Careful of

1. *Phrases*-Phrases should only be used if the phrase denotes a single concept. To test this insert a preposition between the two words (French art/Art in France). If the meaning does not change, the phrase should be split into two separate concepts
2. *Non-searchable concepts*-Terms or ideas that are vague or can be implied within in an article or an article's abstract. For example, an article discussing the benefits or advantages of alternative medicine can do so without the author using the either of the words.
3. *Double Meaning*-Because the computer does not take into account in what context your terms are being used, a certain number of unrelated materials will appear in your results list. To help eliminate them you can try either a synonym, related terms or use the subject heading or descriptor assigned to that concept.
4. *Spelling*

## Search Statements

Use the techniques below to formulate two search statements

- **AND Operator (Narrows)**
- **Or Operator (Broadens)**
- **Nested Searching (Combining And and Or)**
- **Truncation**
  - Used to find plural, singular or word variations of search terms.

## Choosing Resources

### Disciplines

Different academic disciplines often do research on similar topics.

List three scholarly disciplines which may produce research on your thesis.

### Resources

Taking into account the types of materials you are looking for and what disciplines may produce these materials, choose four electronic resources available from Polk Library that you think would include materials on your thesis.