DATABASE SEARCH STRATEGIES:

- Combine your synonyms with OR, all on one search box line
- Combine your separate concepts with AND, one concept per search box line
- * stands for any number of characters, and is useful when you want to find all words that share the same root, i.e. teen* finds teenage, teenager, teenagers, etc.
- Quotation marks (""") help you search for exact phrases of two words or more.
- You can use specific search fields (drop-down menu to the right of each search box) to narrow your search or make it more precise in various ways. Example: Author, Title, Publication/Source Name, Subject.
  - Using the SUBJECT field tells the database that your search words must be ‘tags’ which have been specifically assigned to an article by the author or by a subject indexer.

For example, to search for articles about the topic of teenage violence and video games try this:

![Search Example](image)

**NOTE that here SU Subject Terms are selected on every line. This may NOT be advisable in all circumstances. You can often start you search by leaving the drop-box on the right at its default, and then later try narrowing.**

Limiting TIPS:
At the main search page or the search results page, take the time to explore the different ways in which you can limit your list of hits. For EXAMPLE:
- There is usually checkbox that can limit your search to peer-reviewed or scholarly articles. You cannot always blindly trust this limit. Use with caution and judgment.
- DON’T use the Full Text checkbox, as this will eliminate many useful items from your search.
- Date limits and sorting options are always available, and sometimes preferable to relevance ranking.

Choosing multiple databases:
At the main search page you can often select a “Choose Databases” link – this allows you to select and search multiple databases (on the same platform) at the same time.