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
- An asterisk (*) 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.

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

```
teen* OR adolescent* OR youth OR young
AND "video games"
AND violen* or aggress*
```

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 SU Subject Terms 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.

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

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.