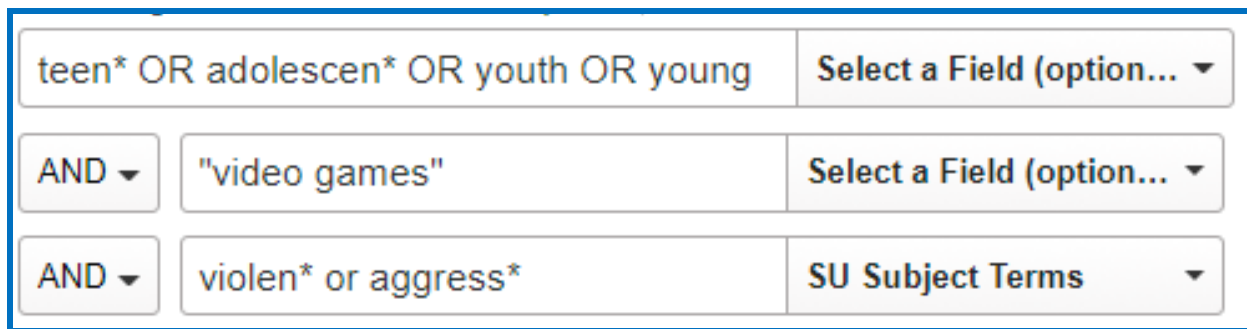


## DATABASE SEARCH STRATEGIES:

- 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:



The screenshot shows a search interface with three search boxes. The first box contains the text 'teen\* OR adolescen\* OR youth OR young' and a dropdown menu labeled 'Select a Field (option...'. The second box contains 'AND' in a dropdown, the text '"video games"', and another dropdown labeled 'Select a Field (option...'. The third box contains 'AND' in a dropdown, the text 'violen\* or aggress\*', and a dropdown labeled 'SU Subject Terms'.

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.