Step 1: Select a research topic. Try and phrase it in the form of a question.

For example: Is there a problem with teens abusing medication?

Step 2: Identify the major concepts of your topic.

For example: Is there a problem with teens abusing medication?

Step 3: Develop a list of keywords related to the major concepts.

For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teens</th>
<th>Abusing (Abuse)</th>
<th>Medication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents</td>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>Prescription Drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile</td>
<td>Addiction</td>
<td>Over the counter Drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Using</td>
<td>Antidepressants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Create a list of synonyms. Use a thesaurus to help create the list: http://www.thesaurus.com

Consider if there is a way to link similar terms in order to create one complex search term. For example: Abuse + Prescription Drugs = Prescription Drug Abuse

Create a list of different types of a broad term. Being specific in your search terms will make your research easier.
USE BOOLEAN OPERATORS

- Boolean operators are simple words (AND, OR, NOT) that help you to refine your search.

- Using AND will find both terms
  
  For example: Prescription Drug Abuse AND Teens

  will find articles with both prescription drug abuse and teens mentioned. This creates a narrower search.

- Using OR will find either term
  
  For example: Prescription Drug Abuse OR Teens

  will find articles where each term is mentioned but not necessarily together. This creates a much broader search.

TRUNCATION

- Allows you to list documents containing variations on a search term by using its root

  For example: teen*

  will search for the words teen, teens, teenagers, etc.

  For example: creat*

  will search for the words creature, creation, create, creating, creator, etc.
Go to LCCC’s home page located at www.lccc.edu
Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the Rothrock Library link.
Click on the Start Your Research link
Click on the Databases A-Z link
Click on the EBSCO link
Select your databases. We will be using the defaults of Academic Search Complete & MasterFILE Premier. You can add additional databases by clicking the box next to the database you’d like to add. When finished, click Continue.
Refer to your search terms list. Select two and use the AND connector to start. Remember that adding a * to a base word will search all variations of that word.
1. Use your facets on the left hand side to help narrow your search by Full text, Date and Source Type.
2. Click on the blue hyperlink of an interesting title from the results list in order to see that article’s record.
1. The Abstract will give you a short summary of what an article is about and can help save you time.
2. When given the option between PDF and HTML Full text always select the PDF Full Text option.
1. Remember that you can email articles to yourself and that this can help save on printing costs.

2. The cite tool is helpful in understanding the basics of how a citation should be laid out but SHOULD NOT be trusted as it can often contain errors.