

Search Terms & Boolean Operators Activity

<Your Name>

Assignment Goal:

In this assignment you will turn a clinical question into its PICO components (Patient/problem, Intervention/exposure, Comparison, Outcomes, and Time), develop search terms for each component, and build an initial search string for PubMed. This skill is essential to helping you find relevant information for your final project, and in your future career in the health sciences.

Assignment Directions:

1. Break down the question below into its PICO components.
 - a. Hint: Not every PICO question has every PICO component.
2. Following the example below (page 2), create a table of synonyms using the categories you created.
3. After you complete your table, answer questions 1-3.
4. Review the information about Boolean Operators, and answer the remaining questions.

In pediatric patients aged newborn to 17, what is the effect of play on childhood obesity over five years?

(P)	(I)	(C)	(O)	(T)

Questions:

1. What strategies did you use to come up with synonyms?

2. How can you use synonyms to help you find articles?

3. Why do you think it's a good idea to include as many synonyms as possible?

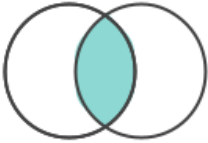
Example PICO Question and Search Table:

- For long term patients, how does the use of therapy dogs during their stay affect patients' emotions?

Categories	Therapy Dogs (I)	Feelings (O)	Long Term Patients (P)
Synonyms	Therapy canine Therapy Pet Animal Therapy Therapy Cat Therapy Feline Hospital Animal Use Animal Assisted Therapy	Attitude Emotions Emotional State Mood	Long Term Care Extended Hospital Stay Length of Stay
Database Vocabulary	Animal Assisted Therapy [MeSH]	Emotions [MeSH]	Length of Stay [MeSH]

Boolean Operators

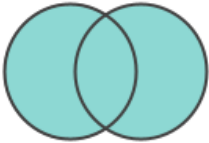
cats AND dogs



The article I need must have information about both cats AND dogs. It must mention both.

- Least results
- More specific
- More power

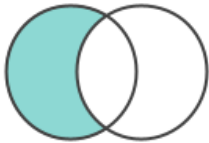
cats OR dogs



The article I need can be about cats OR dogs OR both. Really as long as it's one or the other, I'm good.

- More results
- Less specific
- Good power to use synonyms in your search

cats NOT dogs



I need an article about cats, but definitely NOT about dogs. I suppose it could include other animals as well as cats.

- Less results
- Somewhat specific
- Least useful (in my opinion)

4. Using the terms you gathered in the above table, create a search strategy. Your search terms will be combined using AND, OR, and NOT. Type your search strategy in the space provided.

Combine Boolean Operators and Terms:

← AND →				
	Categories	Therapy Dogs (I)	Feelings (O)	Long Term Patients (P)
↑ OR ↓	Synonyms	Therapy canine Therapy Pet Animal Therapy Therapy Cat Therapy Feline Hospital Animal Use Animal Assisted Therapy	Attitude Emotions Emotional State Mood	Long Term Care Extended Hospital Stay Length of Stay
	Database Vocabulary	Animal Assisted Therapy [MeSH]	Emotions [MeSH]	Length of Stay [MeSH]

5. Why did you combine your terms in the way you did?