
- **AND** – Combines *different* concepts. Tells database that *both or all* words must be present in search results.

  Ex: **“video games”**
  
  ![AND • ( violence OR )]

- **OR** – Combines *similar* concepts. Tells database that *any* of the terms can be present in search results.

  Ex: teenager OR child OR youth OR adolescent

- **NOT** – *Excludes* terms. The word specified *will not* come up in your results, so use wisely.

  Ex: Saturn
  
  ![NOT • ( car OR )]

2. **Phrase Searching**: Use quotation marks to search for exact phrases. If you input a phrase without quotes, the database assumes there is an ‘AND’ between each term.

  Ex: **“organizational leadership”**

  Ex: **“media psychology”**

3. **Truncation**: Insert a symbol, such as an asterisk, at the end of a word stem to retrieve all possible endings.

  Ex: **politic***

**Possible Results:**

- [A Political Duet: The Twentieth Congress of the CPSU, the Eighth Congress of the CCP, and Shino-Soviet Relations](#)
- [Why Worry About the Politics of Childhood Undernutrition?](#)
  Nisbett, Nicholas; Gillespie, Stuart; Haddad, Lawrence; Harris,
- [Puerto Rico’s Luis Muñoz Marín: Poet, Politician, and Paradox](#)
- [Politically speaking at home and abroad: A typology of message gap strategies](#)
4. **Proximity Searching**: Find words that appear close to one another, but not necessarily as a phrase. ‘NEAR’ or ‘N’ combined with a number searches for terms near each other in any order. **NOTE**: symbols and functionality may vary depending on the database.

**Ex:** "video games" N/2 violence

**Possible Results:**

- Video Games and Violence: Legislating on the 'Politics of Confusion'

- Video Games and Youth Violence: A Prospective Analysis in Adolescents

- How Violent Video Games Communicate Violence: A Literature Review and Content Analysis of Moral Disengagement Factors

5. **Nesting**: A nest is comprised of synonyms for a concept connected using ‘OR’ and enclosed in parentheses. Use nesting when you want to link two or more concepts that have many synonyms.

**Ex:**

- "social media"

**Ex:**

- "social media" AND (teen* OR child* OR youth OR adolescent*)

**Ex:**

- ("social media" OR "online social network" OR "social network")

AND ▼ ( youth OR adolescent*)

If you need any additional guidance, please contact the library or consult the help features of the database you are using.