Creating a Search Strategy

1. Define your topic in a phrase or sentence.

Example: Research and support your position on a controversial topic, such as Climate Change, with facts and cited sources.

2. Circle the keywords, or the main words, in your sentence.

3. Generate synonyms for the keywords in your topic. Get these from books, articles, or other sources of information, and also use word association to generate keywords.

   global warming, rising sea levels, glacial retreat, melting ice caps

4. Find additional keywords or synonyms such as persons, places or related things. (Check out www.thesaurus.com for ideas!)

   carbon footprint, the greenhouse effect, greenhouse gases,
   ozone depletion, deforestation

5. List the assignment requirements (due date, types of sources, etc.)

   3 newspaper articles, 2 academic/scholarly articles;
   Sources must be no more than 5 years old. Due December 1.

6. Try some searches! Go to the FAU Libraries Home Page (www.fau.edu/library) to get to SearchWiSE, the Library Catalog, Indexes/Databases, and Electronic Journals.