Combining keywords Circles the main ideas in your research question and then brainstorm synonyms and other keywords that might broaden, narrow, or express your topic in another way. For example:

What are the effects of **poor nutrition** on the **development** of **children**?

**main ideas**
- poor nutrition
- development
- children

**synonyms**
- *malnutrition*
- *hunger*
- *food insecurity*
- *growth*
- *maturation*
- *child*
- *preschooler*
- *toddler*

Then combine your ideas together as many ways as you can in the database search box. Use AND between ideas so your results contain each keyword. Words that work well together as phrases can be placed in quotation marks for more accurate results.

“**poor nutrition**” and development and children
malnutrition and growth and toddler
“**food insecurity**” and maturation and preschooler
hunger and growth and toddlers