Basic Rules of Doing a Good Search

1) Break Search into Concepts
   - Easier to Manipulate Your Search to Get Desired Results
   - Start with Two Most Important Concepts from Your Question
   - Combine with Boolean Operators - AND, OR, NOT

2) Come up with Alternative Terms or Concepts for Your Topic
   - Databases = Different Audiences
   - Remember Terms People Use Are Based on Background/Perspective
   - Sources for:
     - Index/Entry Terms of Subject Headings
     - Terms from Related Articles
     - Google Scholar

**Truncation - Train* (Trained, Trainer, Training, etc.)**
Be careful where you place * as it could return unrelated articles.

**Grouping - Use Quotation Marks**
Use to search as a phrase - “Pressure Ulcer” instead of “Pressure AND Ulcer”

**Compound Words** – May need to search word together and separate. (ex. “Health Care”/”Healthcare”)

**Title and Abstract – Two Best Fields to Search**
- PubMed - [TIAB] or Advanced Search/Drop Downs
- CINAHL - Use drop down beside Search box / Not Always Necessary
3) **Start Your Search Broad and Then Focus**
   - Use Limits/Filter of the Database *(Publication/Study Types, Language, Gender/Sex, Etc.)*
     - Start at the Top of the Evidence Pyramid and Work Down
   - Add an Additional Concept or Term

4) **Always Search at Least Two Databases – *Unique Articles in Each Database***
   - Provide different ways to access same information base and may find evidence in one database using terminology that would not be found in another database.