**Individual Activity - Block building Search Strategy**

1. Break down your chosen question into its main concepts.
2. Under each concept, generate a list of related keywords or synonyms - this forms a block.
3. Mix and match keywords across the blocks to refine and vary your search terms.

This strategy will help you to identify relevant concepts to your topic and maximize your use of the search engine to find relevant sources. Each time you encounter a dead-end during your search, use a different combination of search terms from your completed table. You may also use this exercise to refine your original question – for example, do you have too many keywords or no keywords at all?

**Example**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The effects of urbanisation on Singapore’s heritage** | | | | |
| **Concept 1: Urbanisation** | **AND** | **Concept 2: Singapore** | **AND** | **Concept 3: Heritage** |
| Development  … | Asia  … | Culture  … |
| **Refined search terms:**  “Urbanisation” AND “Singapore” AND “Culture”  “Development” AND “Singapore” AND “Heritage” | | | | |

**Instructions**

Feel free to make amendments to the table if you have more or less than 3 concepts in your question.

You are to generate >5 related keywords per concept.

You can exclude “Singapore” as a concept if you have more important keywords in your question.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **[Insert Topic Here]** | | | | |
| **Concept 1:** | **AND** | **Concept 2:** | **AND** | **Concept 3:** |
| *[Generate a list of related or associated keywords here]* | *[Generate a list of related or associated keywords here]* | *[Generate a list of related or associated keywords here]* |
| **Refined search terms:**  *[Combine search terms across the blocks]* | | | | |