**Student Name**:

## Part 1: Getting started with research

Write your research question or thesis statement in the box below.

Next, highlight or change the text color of the most important words or phrases in your question. Each should be only 1-2 words long. These are your keywords. Focus on the most unique words, and ignore common words like the, on, effect, what, who, etc. Try to identify at least 2-3 keywords for your question. Refer to the example in the online text if you need assistance.

Now, type each keyword into a separate box. Refer to the example in the online text if you need assistance.

Finally, list alternative words or phrases for each keyword underneath it in the corresponding box. Think about direct synonyms (i.e., physical activity for exercise) and words that may make your search broader (i.e., psychology for mental health) or narrower (i.e., undergraduates for college students). Refer to the example in the online text if you need assistance.

## Part II: Finding sources

Using the keywords you identified in Part I, and following the examples from the online text and video, write some possible combinations of search terms to get you started below.

Access the Library Search System, or BOSS, from the library’s homepage: <https://library.okstate.edu/> Using the big orange box in the center of the page, start searching using the combination you identified earlier. As you search, answer the following questions:

Which search terms seem to work best?

Look at the filters on the left side of your results page. Which ones looks like they will be useful for your search?

Examine the “Subject Terms” list on the left side (click “show more” to see a full list). What are some of the suggested terms that you could use as you continue to look for sources?

Find at least one good, relevant source and record the citation here:

## Part III: Why Scholarly Articles?

Have you read or used academic or scholarly articles before? What was that experience like? What strategies did you use to read and understand the information?

### Parts of a Scholarly Article

Based on the description in the online text, what parts of the scholarly article do you feel will be most useful for doing research for your assignments? Why?

### Reading a Scholarly Article

Let’s practice choosing which part of a research article will help with typical information needs.

#### Scenario:

You are looking for articles about the development of improvisational skills. Presented are the titles of two articles that might serve that purpose.

* Title 1: Instrumental Jazz Improvisation Development: Characteristics of Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced Improvisers
* Title 2: Jazz Improvisation in the Middle School Music Classroom

Which part of these articles would most likely help you decide if they are addressing contributing factors or something else?

Choice A: The Abstract

Choice B: The Conclusion

How did you come to your decision?

#### Scenario

When you practice, sometimes your muscles get sore. You found a study that says riboflavin may reduce soreness. You wonder about the theories behind this study.

* Title: A Placebo-Controlled Trial of Riboflavin for Enhancement of Ultramarathon Recovery

Which part of the article would most likely discuss theory?

Choice A: The Introduction

Choice B: The Methods

Choice C: The Discussion

How did you come to your decision?

## Part IV: Finding Additional Research

Use the strategies you’ve learned in the previous sections to read and extract the important information from your existing sources. Then, answer the following questions.

* What are some key ideas, terms, and concepts that you found in your reading?
* Choose a database to search in from the [Library’s Databases by Subject](https://library.okstate.edu/databases/databases-by-subject-area) page. Using the terms and ideas you identified above, search for additional sources. When you find at least one good source, record the information below.
  + Title:
  + Author(s):
  + Year:

What steps did you take to find the article? Which search terms worked the best?

* Look at the references list at the end of an article you have already found. Identify at least one source in the list that looks like it might be relevant for your own research, and record the information below.
  + Title:
  + Author(s):
  + Year:

Now, try to find that article using [BOSS](http://boss.library.okstate.edu) or [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/). Were you successful? What steps did you take to try to find it?