**Brainstorming and Building a Search: Worksheet**

**Steps**

**Your Work Space**

**Step 1: What is your topic?**
Write out your idea. Circle the main words—these will be your first search terms.

**Step 2: Quick Background**
- Google search
- Add site:.gov to your Google search
- Library catalog search
- Encyclopedia search
- Textbook Index

**Step 3: Start a Brainstorm**

**Step 4: Preliminary Search**
Do a quick search with your concept terms and secondary aspect terms in PubMed and CINAHL
Start noting the terms that come up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Searched</th>
<th>Terms in articles or subjects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubMed</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINAHL</td>
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<td>Google</td>
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<td>Textbook</td>
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Step 5: Grow your brainstorm

Use the diagrams to help build your brainstorm for other terms to use.

Find other terms in the sources you’ve searched already, such as encyclopedias, your textbook, and the databases.

Look for MeSH terms and Subject headings.

If you don’t have secondary aspects, don’t use the extra diagrams. If you have multiple secondary aspects, use a diagram for each.

Step 6: Turn your brainstorm into a search

Write in your terms. You can add AND in between concepts to search for these together.

| Concept 1 | (_________________________ OR ______________________ OR __________________________ OR __________________________) |
| Concept 2 | (_________________________ OR ______________________ OR __________________________ OR __________________________) |
| Concept 3 | (_________________________ OR ______________________ OR __________________________ OR __________________________) |