

Name _____ Class _____

Identifying Key Words, Concepts, Synonyms and Related Terms

Effective researchers use a strategy of broadening their search for information by identifying key words, concepts, synonyms, and related terms. You can find these alternative search terms by consulting an **overview article** in a magazine or encyclopedia, a **thesaurus**, a **dictionary**, **search engines**, and **subject headings** in the library catalog. You should start this process as soon as you decide on a topic or research question and continue to build your list throughout your inquiry.

Key Words <i>(Words that convey the main ideas of your topic or questions)</i>	Concepts <i>(Words that describe the big ideas to which your topic is related)</i>	Synonyms <i>(Words that mean the same as your key words)</i>	Related Terms <i>(Words that are closely associated with key words, but not substitutes like synonyms)</i>
Example Topic/Question: How will global warming affect life in New York City during the 21 st century?			
Ex: global warming, climate, greenhouse gases, solar radiation	Ex: ecological system, environment	Ex: earth temperature, greenhouse effect	Ex: climate change, earth's atmosphere
Your Topic/Question:			
Key Words	Concepts	Synonyms	Related Terms