**Lesson Plan: Keyword Challenge**

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| **Activity Description** | **Resources** | **Time** |
| Summary:The Keyword Challenge activity provides time for students to be creative by brainstorming as many keyword combinations as possible in a short amount of time.Learning Outcomes: Students will create a starting list of keywords they can use to search databases for articles related to their research topics. ACRL Framework for Information Literacy:This activity connects with the frame “Searching as Strategic Exploration.”Instructions: 1. Begin by introducing the concept of keywords. Explain that there are two types of keywords – synonyms and related terms – and they serve different (yet equally important!) purposes when you are searching in library databases.
2. Be sure to explain why both types of keywords are important: you can use synonyms to make sure all relevant articles appear in your search results, and related terms can help you narrow or broaden your research topic.
3. For this exercise, students will work in pairs to brainstorm as many keywords as possible for their research topics.
4. This activity happens in two rounds. For the first round, partners will have one minute to come up with as many keywords as possible for one person’s research topic. As they brainstorm, they will write down all of the keywords they come up with on the Keyword Challenge worksheet, a personal whiteboard, or a piece of scrap paper.
5. Then they will repeat the same process for the other person’s research topic in the second round.
6. The point of this exercise is to be creative and to not get stuck. Encourage students to use Google, Wikipedia, Thesaurus.com and other online resources.

Extension Activity (if time permits):1. Ask students to spend two minutes reading over the list of keywords they developed for their research topics. Tell them to circle the keywords that stand out to them the most, and then to come up with at least two keyword combinations they will use to begin their database searching.
 | Required Materials:Students need a place to record their keywords for this exercise. That could be the whiteboards in the UL Classroom, a piece of scrap paper, or the Keyword Challenge worksheet provided on the Library Instruction Team website.Prep:If you plan to use the Keyword Challenge worksheet, print out 19 copies before class. | **6 minutes** |