

Finding Keywords

Outcome: Students use online encyclopedias to discover keywords for a topic in order to generate a list of keywords and related terms to use in searches about their topics.

Curriculum: existence of multiple synonyms, related words and broader and narrower terms for a topic.

Learning Activity: This exercise uses online encyclopedias to identify keywords for different topics.

Direction to students:

If you are pretty familiar with your topic, you may be able to come up with some different keywords to describe your topic. However, looking in some reference sources or even in your textbook or readings will help you find some more. In this exercise, we are going to use an online encyclopedia to see how many keywords we can find for some topics.

Encyclopedia.com (<http://www.encyclopedia.com>)

Britannica.com (<http://www.britannica.com>)

Encarta (<http://encarta.msn.com/reference/>)

Link to one of the above encyclopedias. Show a search for the topic **school choice** or one of the more relevant topics below. Bring a student up to be the recorder and, as a group, list as many words as the group can find. Then have the class suggest which are good similar words, broader terms, narrower terms, related terms.

Other topics **pollution, cloning, adolescents,**

Learning Activity 2: In groups of two, students spend 15 minutes searching the above online encyclopedias for synonyms, related terms, broader and narrower terms. They fill out the attached form for their own topic.

Assessment: On card, students write a similar word or synonym, a broader term, a narrower term, and a related term.

Criteria: Student lists his or her topic and one of each of the following: a synonym, a broader term, a narrower term, a related term.



Finding Keywords

With your partner, search one or more of the following online encyclopedias for your main topic. View the results list and some of the entries to find words that are similar or related to your topic. Complete the chart below in order to organize your findings.

Encyclopedia.com (<http://www.encyclopedia.com>)

Britannica.com (<http://www.britannica.com>)

Encarta (<http://encarta.msn.com/reference/>)

My topic: _____ (**example:** homelessness)

Similar words or synonyms:	Broader terms:	Narrower terms:	Related words:
Examples: homeless	social problems societal problems	shanty towns shelters	welfare
Your topic:			