PICO Worksheet and Search Strategy

Name: ________________________________________________________________

STEP 1: Write your question below:

What are the key concepts in your question? Circle them

STEP 2: Using the key concepts from your research question, identify PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparison and Outcome).

Population: ______________________________________________________________

Intervention: ______________________________________________________________

Comparison: ______________________________________________________________

Outcome: ________________________________________________________________

STEP 3: List alternate keywords for the PICO here (synonyms, broader or narrower terms):

Population: ______________________________________________________________

Intervention: ______________________________________________________________

Comparison: ______________________________________________________________

Outcome: ________________________________________________________________

STEP 4: Determine the best databases to search your PICO (Academic Search Premiere, CINAHL, PubMed, psycINFO, ScienceDirect, etc.) and list here:

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________
**STEP 5:** Identify controlled vocabulary/subject terms for the PICO by database:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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**STEP 6:** List irrelevant terms you may want to exclude from your search (you may not have any):


**STEP 7:** Identify the types of studies to include in the search:

- Meta-Analysis
- Randomized Control
- Systematic Review
- Experimental
- Position Stands
- Cohort
- Cross-Sectional
- Case Study
- Editorial

**STEP 8:** Create a sample Search Query using a combination of Boolean Operators (see chart below), phrasing (quotes), nesting (parenthesis) and truncation (asterisk)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boolean Operator</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| **AND**          | • connects keywords/concepts  
                  • narrows the search  
                  • must contain all search terms | Television AND Violence Therapy AND Dogs |
| **OR**           | • expands the search  
                  • finds either/or search term(s)  
                  • use between synonyms | Adolescents OR Teenagers  
                                      Dogs OR Canines |
| **NOT**          | • excludes search results  
                  • narrows the search | Trees NOT Citrus  
                                      Dogs NOT Poodles |