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For further research assistance access the Wahlstrom Library website via the myUB Portal.

Ask a Librarian via Chat: Available when the Library is open through the Library website.

E-mail a Librarian: reference@bridgeport.edu

Call a Librarian: 203-576-4747

Walk-ins welcome, no appointment needed!
Use parentheses to...

...group related words together

Example:
(drug OR substance) AND abuse AND public policy

The OR between drug and substance searches for articles that use either keyword. One of them must be used, but either one is acceptable.

In the above example the idea is that both drug abuse and substance abuse represent similar ideas. Both terms could yield useful results, so you want to find articles that use either term.

Use parentheses to...

...determine the order that search terms will be looked for

Example:
(abuse OR addiction) AND drug AND (public AND policy)

The example above is looking for articles that:
1. Mention either abuse or addiction
2. Definitely include drug
3. Mention BOTH public and policy

The idea here is we want articles that talk about either drug abuse or drug addiction. We also want those articles to talk about public policy. The way the example is formatted makes sure we see articles with all of those elements while minimizing articles that are off topic.

Here is an example of a search in Academic Search Premier:
abuse OR addiction AND drug AND public AND policy = 241,991 results ← Lots of extraneous results
(abuse OR addiction) AND drug AND public policy = 4,246 results ← More accurate results!
See the difference?