

Student Name _____

First Year Seminar – Good for any introductory level course

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Course LibGuide: _____

SECTION 1: Discovering Research Environments

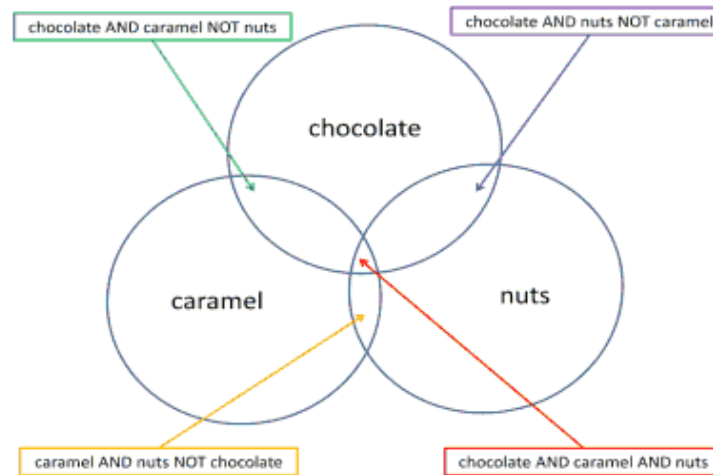
Each box before you represents a research environment from which you can find different resources. Working with your group, take a look at your assigned box(es). Answer the following questions in order to learn about your research environment. Each group should plan to give a 2-3 minute summary of their research environment.

1. What box number are you working with? How does it compare in size to the other boxes?
2. Before looking in your research environment, what do you notice about the outside of the box?
3. Go through your box. What did you find in it? What kinds of resources are available in your box?
4. Notes for presentation:
5. How does your research environment compare to the other environments?

Box 1	Box 2
Box 3	Box 4

SECTION 2: Making Research Environments Work for You

Now that you have an idea of what kinds of research environments will work for finding sources for your research, you need to think about how you want to look for resources within those environments. The first step in that process is coming up with *keywords*. Keywords are phrases and terms specific to your topic and are grouped in such a way as to provide meaningful results?



Step 1: Define your topic. A thesis statement or research question works best.

Step 2: Circle important terms for your topic statement and enter them in the table below.

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Synonyms				
Related Terms				

*Consider multiple spellings for terms.

Step 3: Combine search terms using Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT).

Step 4: What keywords worked well? What keywords didn't? Keep track of productive keyword combinations.