

**ATTACHMENT A**  
VDOE SECONDARY RESEARCH STRAND

**ACTIVITY: BOOLEAN SEARCH ENGINE**

A focused Boolean Search is as crucial to developing a strong thesis statement for a research paper, as an engine is to moving a vehicle. Like the process an engine takes to spark movement, a thesis statement requires key words and steps to help focus the writer of the paper.

**Boolean Search Engine DIRECTIONS: Fill in the engine “piston” below as you prepare to research a potential idea/topic for your research paper.**

1. Identify key word list: Place your KEY words from your initial brainstorm on your research idea. This will be the initial INDUCTION of information to “rev up” your engine search!
2. COMPRESS key words: Find words that are relevant or in contrast to each other that you can combine with BOOLEAN LOGIC [and, or, not]. Combining terms helps fuel your engine search with much needed gasoline!
3. IGNITE your search engine with new ideas that you find as you compress your term search. Refuel your thoughts to help focus the topic further!
4. EXHAUST all possible sources available [articles, databases, periodicals, etc.] to help you establish your topic’s focus. Note the sources you could use to help you with your research. Now you are ready to go!

