Narrowing an Internet Search

Search using effective key words, not a question:

- ❑ Use 3-5 key words
- ❑ Use synonyms for words
- ❑ Include key words about what kind of information you are looking for on your topic: impacts, causes, effects, statistics, symptoms, etc.
- ❑ Examples
  - o Social media addiction problem
  - o Social media addiction impact
  - o Social media addiction causes
  - o Social media addiction and relationships

If you want only articles from specific domains:

In a search engine type the following + your keywords

- ❑ site:gov
- ❑ site:edu
- ❑ site:org
- ❑ Examples:
  - o site:edu Afghanistan history (This search will give you articles from only .edu websites.)
  - o site:gov climate change impacts

If you want a list of sites which have linked to a specific site:

- ❑ link:URL will bring up a list of sites who have linked to that specific site
- ❑ Examples:
  - o link:www.newyorker.com social media
    - ▪ This generates articles on social media from *The New Yorker*.
  - o Link:www.nasa.gov space travel
    - ▪ This only searches the NASA website for articles about space travel.

Use the Advanced settings on Google to do a Boolean search:

- ❑ **Boolean** means a system of logical thought used to create true/false statements. You can use an advanced search to tell the search engine what you do and don't want. You are basically entering the criteria for the search.
- ❑ On Google, click on "Settings" and then choose "Advanced search"
  - o Fill in the different fields that will help narrow the search
  - o These may be the most helpful:
    - ▪ Exact words
    - ▪ None of these words
    - ▪ Last updated, which will help you narrow to the most recent articles
    - ▪ Site or domain: This will do the same thing as what is listed above.
    - ▪ Format: PDF