If you haven’t entirely developed your research question you may start your search using very broad, general terms. Example, “homework” This will present you with a wide variety of sub-topics to choose from. Following that, there are several ways to narrow or focus your search by modifying your search terms. Two strategies are:

1. Narrow your search using facets, including the subject facet. Click “show more” to open the pop up of all subjects and select from there.
2. Narrow your search based on the keywords you find in the abstract of a detailed record and/or the subjects that are assigned to particular articles. You may decide to modify your search topic somewhat based on your results and the description of relevant abstracts.
When you have more fully developed your research question and while you are still searching, try your search using one search string or query. Keep search phrases together using quotes and keywords around Boolean operators together with parentheses. For example:

```
((homework OR assignments) AND "student achievement")
```

This will help you transfer your search over to other databases, like ERIC and SAGE Journals Online.
NOTES:

Searching with various limits, including Review Article, Graphs, Charts, Diagrams and keywords like “meta-analysis” may eliminate too many articles. Download and browse the full text of an article, when readily available, to determine that the article is a research article, if not already indicated in the abstract. Verify the article includes a methods section.

When a relevant article is very current, be sure to check the article for other relevant articles within your timeframe. Today many publishers and databases provide hot links to the cites within articles and in bibliographies, so look there while you are still online.

When a relevant article is somewhat dated or at the older end of your timeframe, look for authors that have cited it. Use Google Scholar, look the article up and note whether or not there are further articles listed under “Cited by.”