Name: _____   Section: _____

Practice Using Search Engine Symbols/Commands

For this activity you will review and use the symbols/commands associated with search engines to narrow your search of various topics. Please use www.google.com or www.altavista.com as your search engine.

PART 1 - Directions: Use a search engine to narrow your search of the broad topic listed below. Please keep in mind that the approach being used below is not typical – its sole purpose is to show you how search results are impacted by the use of various symbols/commands.

1.   Search for the topic of *science*.

   a. What did you use to perform this search?
   _____

   b. How many sites are there?
   _____

2.   Narrow your search by specifying *cells*.

   a. What did you use to narrow this search?
   _____

   b. How many sites are there?
   _____

3.   Narrow your search by specifying *prokaryotes* which are a specific type of cell.

   a. What did you use to narrow this search?
   _____

   b. How many sites are there?
   _____

4.   Narrow your search by specifying that you want to exclude *eukaryotes* which are another type of cell.

   a. What did you use to narrow this search?
   _____

   b. How many sites are there?
   _____

5. Narrow your search by specifying that you are interested in _endosymbiosis_ which describes some types of cellular relationships.

    a. What did you use to narrow your search?

    _____

    b. How many sites are there?

    _____

6. Narrow your search by specifying that you are interested in "_Mitochondrial Eve_," which is a theory associated with cells.

    What did you use to narrow your search?

    _____

    a. How many sites are there?

    _____

7. Narrow your search by specifying that all of the websites should be from educational institutions.

    a. What did you use to narrow your search?

    _____

    b. How many sites are there?

    _____

8. Narrow your search by specifying that all of the websites should be from Canada instead of educational institutions.

    a. What did you use to narrow your search?

    _____

    b. How many sites are there?

    _____

PART 2 - <u>Directions</u>: Use a search engine to perform an internet search of the topics below. Write down the keywords and symbols/commands you would use to locate websites on the specified information.

1. cats and dogs

    Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

    _____

2. pit bull breed of dogs, but not the singer

    Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

    _____

3. specific type of fish called a mullet, but not the haircut

    Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

    _____

4. eagles, but not the Philadelphia Eagles

    Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

    _____

5. professional basketball teams in Italy

    Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

    _____

6. universities that have information pertaining to atoms

    Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

    _____

7. fish that live in the Atlantic Ocean that are not sharks

   Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

   _____

8. running shoes that are not made by Nike or New Balance

   Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

   _____

9. causes for the Revolutionary War as described by individuals living in England

   Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

   _____

10. people with the same exact name as yours living in your community and state

   Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

   _____

PART 3 - <u>Directions</u>: Take some time to experiment on your own to see how you can use the different symbols/commands to narrow any school appropriate topics of your choice.