Using PsycINFO Advanced Search functions

When you first enter PsycINFO, choose the Advanced Search option, just above the search bar.

In the advanced search, you can put each of your keywords on its own row and you can limit to peer-reviewed and limit to a recent publication year, as required by your assignment. Here my research topic is the impact of sleep deprivation on bipolar disorder.
Using PsycINFO Advanced Search functions

In this search, you can see using my search terms and limiting by date and peer-reviewed, I still get 109 results. That’s a lot!

I can see from my results that most of these articles deal with treatments or interventions for folks with sleep disorders, which is not my research focus. So I want to go back to my search boxes and tell the database to omit articles with those terms, which I do by using the NOT operator.
Using PsycINFO Advanced Search functions

With adding the NOT operator, I now get a much more manageable list of results – 38 of them – and they are more relevant to my research interests.

I can continue to narrow down my results by using the limiting options on the left-hand side of the results list. A particularly useful limiting option is METHODOLOGY, which lets you limit by the methodology used in the studies the database retrieves.
Using PsycINFO Advanced Search functions

Finally, when you find an article that looks interesting by title, click on it to get the abstract. Under the abstract, you’ll find a list of subject terms assigned to that article. Those subject terms are excellent ideas for new or better keywords to use if you need to modify your search. So pay attention to them and let them guide your keyword usage.

Happy researching!