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Patent Search Keyword Brainstorm Template

Use this checklist to brainstorm effective keywords for your DIY patent search. Fill in each section with words and phrases that describe your invention from multiple angles. A broader, more diverse keyword list will yield stronger, more reliable search results.

1. Core Functions

- What does your invention do?
- List words for the main purpose or function.
- Example: Foldable chair → collapsible seat, portable chair, camping stool.

2. Synonyms & Variants

- What are alternative terms or phrases?
- Think technical synonyms, layman's terms, and industry jargon.
- Example: Wireless → cordless, Bluetooth, radio-frequency.

3. Applications & Industries

- What industries or contexts could use your invention?
- Example: Biomedical device → surgical, diagnostic, therapeutic applications.

4. Components & Features

- Break the invention into parts or features.
- Example: Solar water purifier → solar panel, UV sterilizer, filtration system.

5. Broad & Narrow Terms

- Include both general categories and specific terms.
- Example: Broad: fastener. Narrow: spring-loaded clip.

Tip: Use a spreadsheet to organize your brainstorm. Group keywords into categories (functions, synonyms, applications, components, broad/narrow terms). This list will guide your DIY search—and serve as a foundation for an attorney-led prior art search.

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