Questions from PubMed assignment.

1. MESH terms.
   - What is a descriptor? Something that characterizes the subject matter or content.
   - A qualifier? Groups together documents concerned with a particular aspect of a subject.
   - An entry term? Synonyms or closely related terms that are cross-references to descriptors. Generally, entry vocabulary may be used interchangeably with preferred descriptors for searching of PubMed. Thus, the entry vocabulary is a means by which the MeSH thesaurus can be enriched to the advantage of both the online user and the user of the printed bibliography.

4. Write a search strategy for the same HIV RNA dependent DNA polymerase search using MeSH headings.
   - What is a MeSH tree? Where on a MeSH tree is your term? MeSH descriptors are organized into sixteen categories which are called “trees”. There are many “branches” on each tree: category A is used for anatomic terms, category B for organisms, C for diseases, D for drugs and chemicals, etc. Each category is also further divided into subcategories, which help better classify the term.
   - What happens with Find Exact Term? Get very limited search results.
   - What happens with “Find terms with ALL fragments”? Get more results then previous.
   - Find terms with ANY fragment? Search finds the most results with this function.
   - How many articles do you find using the MeSH terms instead of the terms you thought of? Not as many. I am not sure if I am using them correctly to be honest.

5. Use “Related Articles” to find articles similar to those retrieved in #4.
   - How many articles do you find? More, which is expected since it broadened the search parameters.

6. I am not understanding how to do the exporting. Hopefully we cover this in class tomorrow.

7. Compare the precision and recall of these searches. What are some issues in assessing performance of the searches? Considering I am not sure if I am using them correctly, I could be omitting things that are important.

8. Try Google with the same search term. What are some of the differences in what you hit? Number of hits? Google gives hits from other places other then MESH but results are similar in terms of quantity.

11. Write a simple, nontechnical summary of what your gene DOES in humans.
My gene is Neuroligin 3. Basically, the gene encodes a member of a family of neuronal cell surface proteins. The members of the family act as splice site-specific ligands for beta-neurexins and may be involved in the formation and remodeling of CNS synapses in the brain. Mutations in my gene may be associated with autism and Asperger’s. Not much is known on my gene really, which has me worried that maybe I picked one that will be harder to build a website around.