

Academic Writing and Referencing for Your Nursing Degree: Critical Study Skills

Academic writing is a vital skill for nursing students. It allows you to communicate your knowledge and ideas in a clear and concise manner, and it is essential for success in your studies. Referencing is also an important skill, as it allows you to give credit to the sources that you have used in your work.

This guide will provide you with everything you need to know about academic writing and referencing for your nursing degree. We will cover the following topics:

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There are many different types of academic writing, but the most common types that nursing students will encounter are essays, reports, and literature reviews.



Academic Writing and Referencing for your Nursing Degree (Critical Study Skills) by Jane Bottomley

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- **Essays** are typically short pieces of writing that present a specific argument or观点. They are usually written in a formal style, and they should be well-structured and well-researched.
- **Reports** are longer pieces of writing that present the results of a research project. They are typically written in a more objective style than essays, and they should be well-organized and well-documented.
- **Literature reviews** are critical summaries of the existing research on a particular topic. They are typically written in a more academic style than essays or reports, and they should be well-organized and well-referenced.

An academic essay typically has the following structure:

- **Introduction:** The should provide a brief overview of the topic of the essay and state the main argument.
- **Body:** The body of the essay should provide evidence and support for the main argument. It should be divided into several paragraphs, each of which should focus on a specific aspect of the topic.
- **Conclusion:** The should summarize the main argument of the essay and restate the thesis statement.

A literature review is a critical summary of the existing research on a particular topic. It should be well-organized and well-referenced, and it should provide a clear and concise overview of the current state of knowledge on the topic.

To write a literature review, you will need to:

- **Identify your topic:** The first step is to identify the topic of your literature review. This should be a specific and focused topic that is relevant to your nursing practice.
- **Search for sources:** Once you have identified your topic, you will need to search for sources that are relevant to your research. You can use library databases, online databases, and other sources to find relevant articles, books, and other materials.
- **Read and evaluate sources:** Once you have found some sources, you will need to read and evaluate them to determine their relevance and quality. You should look for sources that are well-written, well-researched, and relevant to your topic.
- **Organize your literature review:** Once you have read and evaluated your sources, you will need to organize your literature review. You should group your sources into different categories, such as research studies, theoretical articles, and case studies.
- **Write your literature review:** Once you have organized your sources, you can start writing your literature review. Your literature review should be well-written, well-organized, and well-referenced. It should provide a clear and concise overview of the current state of knowledge on your topic.

Referencing is the process of giving credit to the sources that you have used in your work. It is important to reference your sources so that readers can find and read the original sources for themselves.

There are many different referencing styles, but the most common style used in nursing is the APA style. The APA style has specific rules for how to format references, including the following:

- **Author's name:** The author's name should be listed in last name, first name format.
- **Year of publication:** The year of publication should be listed in parentheses after the author's name.
- **Title of the work:** The title of the work should be italicized.
- **Place of publication:** The place of publication should be listed after the title of the work.
- **Publisher:** The publisher should be listed after the place of publication.

For example, a reference to a journal article in the APA style would look like this:

Smith, J. (2020). The importance of academic writing for nursing students. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 59(5),250-255.

There are a number of common mistakes that students make when writing academic papers. These mistakes include:

- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's work without giving them credit. This is a serious academic offense, and it can result in failing the course or even being expelled from school.

- **Poor grammar and spelling:** Poor grammar and spelling can make your writing difficult to read and understand. It can also make it appear unprofessional.
- **Lack of organization:** A lack of organization can make your writing difficult to follow. It can also make it difficult for readers to find the information they are looking for.
- **Lack of evidence:** A lack of evidence can make your writing appear unsubstantiated. It can also make it difficult for readers to believe your argument.
- **Lack of references:** A lack of references can make it difficult for readers to find the original sources for your information. It can also make your writing appear less credible.

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This guide has provided you with everything you need to know about academic writing



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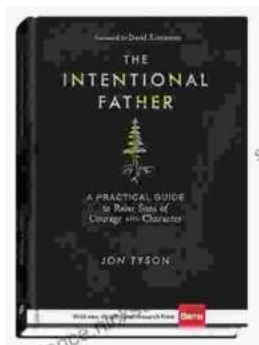
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