Nursing Research Orientation

Tarrant County College, Trinity River Library

Danelle Toups

Nursing / Allied Health Librarian

AKA: The Information Goddess

Tuesdays, TRHN 4th floor elevator lobby, 7am-2pm

Schedule an appointment: libguides.tccd.edu/nursing/help

Office: TREF 2319H, (In the library on the main campus)

Email: danelle.toups@tccd.edu

Nursing Research Guide:

libguides.tccd.edu/nursing

Cell: 817-475-9954
NOTE:

This handout is designed to be supplemental material for the in-person Information Goddess orientation.

For complete instructions on research and writing papers, please use the Nursing Research Guide at [libguides.tccd.edu/nursing](http://libguides.tccd.edu/nursing)
Understanding the Assignment

What is the purpose of the paper?
- Analysis?
- Evidence based practice?
- Case study?

Who is the audience?
- Fellow nursing students?
- Nursing professor?
- Patient?

How many sources are required? ____________

What kind of sources are required?
- Peer reviewed nursing journal articles
- Written by nurses
- American journal article
- Book
- Nursing Text
- Professional website
- Other: _______________________

What is the required length for the paper? ________________

Conducting the Research

- Use class textbook to familiarize yourself with topic.
- Search library databases; email article and citation to self.
- Search the web; create citation for any source read.

Evaluating Resources

Where did you find the source?
- Library database
- Google search
- Library book shelves
- Course textbook
- Other: _______________________

What kind of article is it?
- Empirical study
- Literature Review
- Statistical Report
- Commentary
- Case Study
- Book Review
- Continuing Education
- Other: _______________________

Who is the intended audience of the source?
- Student nurses
- Working nurses
- Doctors
- Other health care workers
- Patients
- Patients’ families
- Other: _______________________

Writing the paper

1. Read the source article.
2. Put it down.
3. Take a 15-minute break.
4. Review the Tips for APA Writing (page 4)
5. Write a 5-6 sentence summary of the article.
   - What was studied? How did the authors try to solve the problem?
   - How was the study conducted?
   - What did the researchers learn?
6. Write a 3-4 sentence conclusion:
   - How should nurses apply the new knowledge presented in the article? How can nurses solve the problem?
7. Write a 3-4 sentence introduction:
   - Why is the topic important? What is the problem?
   - Who is impacted by the topic?
   - To what extent are they impacted?

Formatting the paper

- Review APA: How to format your whole paper tab
- Review the Citing your sources tab and this handout
- Review Using Microsoft Word to Format Papers (this handout)

Getting help

- Text the Information Goddess
- Email the Information Goddess
- Schedule an appointment with the Information Goddess
- Visit with the Information Goddess on Tuesdays in the Nursing building, 7am-2pm
Advanced Searching in CINAHL
Tips for APA Writing Style

- No first or second person-only *third person*. Do NOT use: I, me, my, mine, we, our, you or your
- Do NOT use *contractions*.
- Do NOT use *acronyms* until you have defined them. Do not introduce them unless you will use them multiple times in the paper.
- Keep sentence structure short and direct.
- Use only *active* voice, not passive voice. The doctor administered the medication. NOT The medication was administered by the doctor.
- Do NOT use *anthropomorphisation*. Do not give non-human things the abilities of humans. Do not use: The books/article/website says…
- Do NOT refer to sources by format or title, only by author and date.
- Avoid *redundancy*. Be clear and concise.
- Do not confuse *summary* with *conclusion*. A summary is a restatement of what was said. A conclusion is a presentation of new information based on what was said.
- *Pronouns*-overuse of pronouns can be confusing. Eliminate ambiguity. Be sure your pronouns match. Patient is singular; they is plural. Do not switch back and forth.
- *Colloquial* expressions-keep writing professional at all times.
Using Microsoft Word to Format Papers (PC)

Title Page:
- Insert tab, Header & Footer section, Page Number option, Top of Page, Left
- Design tab, Options section, Different first page check box
- Repeat first step
- Place your cursor left of your page number and type: Running head: TITLE OF PAPER, tab twice
- Double click in the center of your page to get your cursor out of the Header field
- Type your title information, making sure to center the text horizontally, and center it vertically in the top half of the page
- Click Ctrl Enter to move to the next page

First page of paper:
- Double click in the Header field
- Place your cursor left of your page number
- Type your title in all caps, tab twice
- Double click in the center of your page to get your cursor out of the Header field
- Type your title again, only capitalizing the main words, center horizontally
- Tab to indent your paragraph and type your paper
- When you have completed the paper, use Ctrl Enter to create the References page

References
- Type References at the top of the page, center horizontally
- Type your sources, or copy and paste them from the databases
- Select all of your references
- Home tab, Paragraph section, tiny box with arrows in lower right part of section
- Indentation, Special, Hanging, OK
- Home tab, Paragraph section, AZ↓

Formatting text and spacing
- Home tab, Editing section, Select All Objects
- Home tab, Paragraph section, tiny arrow in lower right
- Spacing Before, set to 0; Spacing After set to 0
- Line Spacing, double, OK
- Home tab, Editing section, Select All, Home tab, Font section, Times New Roman, 12 point