NURSING RESEARCH BASICS

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Research Process Steps

How to Write a Research Paper

- Identify and develop a topic

- Do a preliminary search for print and online resources

- Develop a thesis statement and supporting argument

- Make a tentative outline - introduction, body, and conclusion

- Evaluate and cite sources

- Organize notes, verify information, and document quotes

- Write first draft, revise, and proofread

Source: How to Write a Research Paper: Beginner's Guide (scribbr.com), https://tinyurl.com/yck5dr49

Preliminary Steps

- Find a topic of interest from course reading assignments

- Scan relevant journals and books

- Decide on the subject matter of the paper

- Outline ideas to include in your outline

- Organize related ideas into sub-groups and arrange ideas into a hierarchy

How to Analyze a Research Article

- Abstract - brief article summary

- Introduction – topic identification

- Methods - description of research conducted

- Results - summarize data

- Discussion – statement of conclusions and implications

- References - biographic list of sources

Evaluate Sources

- **Currency** - Check the publication date and determine whether it is sufficiently current

- **Coverage (relevance) -** Consider whether the source is relevant to your research and whether it covers the topic adequately

- **Authority -** Discover the credentials of the authors of the source and determine their level of expertise and knowledge

- **Accuracy -** Consider whether the source presents accurate information and whether it can be verified

- **Objectivity (purpose) -** Think about the author's purpose in creating the source and consider how that affects its usefulness

Organize and Verify Information

- Keep a list and add sources as you find them
- Include sources from your background reading, online catalog, or library databases
- Include all citation information for each source
- Record URLs and dates of access for online sources

Source: Use and Organize Information- Writing a Research Paper - Guides at Pepperdine University, https://tinyurl.com/4kfrzv74

Cite Sources

- In APA, cite a source in the text and in the reference list.
- **In-text citations** include the author's surname and publication year. Page numbers are also added when quotes are referred to in the text.
- **Reference list -** each source you cite in the paper must appear in your reference list, each entry in the reference list must be cited in the text.

Source: Lib Guides at Hoftstra University, https://tinyurl.com/2s3sbybc

Write First Draft

- The introduction includes a general statement about the topic and ends with a more specific statement of the main idea

- The purpose of the introduction is to let the reader know what the topic is and how it will be presented

- The body consists of detailed development of ideas. Limit each paragraph to one main idea and use transition words to ensure a smooth flow of ideas between paragraphs

- The conclusion summarizes the discussion and restates the main idea

Research Process Summary

Source: https://www.flowmapp.com/blog/qa/research-design-purpose