NUR1101
Planning and writing your essay
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Edith Cowan University
Centre for Learning and Teaching
CLT Learning Support

- **Topic**
  Break down the task.

- **Research Strategy**
  Finding recent, credible sources.

- **Active reading and note-taking.**

  - Thinking
  - Planning
  - More planning
  - Organising
  - Reviewing
  - Writing
  - Re-writing

- **Write final draft**
  Focus: Sentence level – grammar, punctuation, spelling, presentation.

- **Write second draft**
  Focus: Paragraph level – cohesion, referencing, integration of evidence.

- **Write first draft**
  Focus: Structure, content and order of information is the priority.

- **Finalise draft essay plan**
  Toggling back and forth other the first 4 steps.
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**Write first draft**
Focus: Structure, content and order of information is the priority.

**Write second draft**
Focus: Paragraph level – cohesion, referencing, integration of evidence.

**Write final draft**
Focus: Sentence level – grammar, punctuation, spelling, presentation.

**Research Strategy**
Finding recent, credible sources.

**Active reading and note-taking.**

- Thinking
- Planning
- More planning
- Organising
- Reviewing
- Writing
- Re-writing

**Paraphrasing and grouping main ideas/information.**

**Finalise draft essay plan**
Toggling back and forth other the first 4 steps.
The Task

Critically discuss the role of the registered nurse as a member of the inter-professional healthcare team.

Key aspects for discussion should include teamwork, leadership, professionalism and inter-professional collaboration.

This 2000 word assessment is written and submitted through Cadmus. This final written work requires APA referencing.
You must complete your essay in Cadmus!

**Essay**

Released Tue, 9th April at 8:49am

**Requirements**

**Due Date:** Fri, 10th May at 10:00am.

**Limit:** 2000 words.

**Marks:** It is worth 30% of your total grade for this unit.

**Referencing:** You are required to follow APA.

**Other:** Follow the formatting styles available in Cadmus. No cover page required.

**Instructions**
Breaking down the task

There are three parts of the question to consider:

1. **Instruction** words tell you how to approach the question. They include verbs like ‘discuss’, ‘analyse’ & ‘explain’.
   - Each requires a different type of answer.

2. **Content** words describe your topic. These include key noun phrases, adjectives and verbs.
   - You use these when you begin your research.

3. **Focus** words set the parameters for your answer. They include place, time and type.
Critically discuss the role of the registered nurse as a member of the inter-professional healthcare team.

Key aspects for discussion should include teamwork, leadership, professionalism and inter-professional collaboration.

Use quality, recent academic journals and the NMBA codes and standards to support your discussion.
Defining the instruction words

Discuss

Identify issues and provide points for and/or against
So far …..

Introduction – might need to tweak for final essay
Multi-disciplinary team article/summary
Teamwork articles and paragraphs
Leadership articles and paragraphs

Where to from here??
Planning and more research is key

A 2000 word critical essay involves a lot of pre-writing planning and research
Now you will need to conduct more research

Review the slides from last week’s workshop run by the SNM Librarian
Must have at least 8 peer reviewed journal articles of 5 years or less (aim for 12+)
Must use codes and standards
Planning is a must.....

Download the Planning template from Module 5 of the online academic skills modules

Or Plan in your Notes section of Cadmus!
# Planning template

## ESSAY PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequence of Essay</th>
<th>Supporting information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction:</strong></td>
<td>Click or tap here to enter your notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Topic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Context/Significance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Purpose/Scope</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Structure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Idea 1:</strong></td>
<td>In-text references (paraphrases) and notes to support this idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• State key idea with subheading</td>
<td>Click or tap here to enter your notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Write a topic sentence in full.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Idea 2:</strong></td>
<td>In-text references and notes to support this idea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Back and forth process

You need to finalise your plan

What have you already got?
Figure out the order of your ideas? Check your topic sentences
What information do you still need?
Transitions and flow of essay
Does it all fit together and answer the question?
Structure of your essay

Introduction (100 -150 words approx)
Main Idea
Main Idea
Main Idea
Main Idea
Main Idea

You will need to decide on how many main ideas and body paragraphs are needed to discuss and support your argument

Conclusion (100 -150 words approx)
References

Note: You can choose whether or not to include headings in your essay
Essay outline

Introduction

Paragraphs

Orientate the reader
Identify the focus/purpose
Outline scope
State thesis

Topic sentence 1
Supporting details
Concluding sentence 1

Topic sentence 2
Supporting details
Concluding sentence 2

Topic sentence 3 and so on
Supporting details
Concluding sentence 3

Conclusion

Restate thesis
Summarise argument
Introduction

- Introduce topic
- Context
- Purpose/thesis
- Structure/Focus on the essay

Diagram:
- GENERAL
  - Topic
- Focus
- Structure
  - SPECIFIC
Introduction example

The role of the registered nurse (RN) is ever changing and nurses are now challenged with a wider range of responsibilities than ever before (Arnold, 2016). Nurses are also faced with working amongst other disciplines who may not be aware of the nurses’ purpose and scope of practice (Arnold, 2016). This essay provides further insight into the importance of the registered nurse within an inter-professional healthcare team and the roles and responsibilities they have within this setting. An inter-professional team within healthcare can be described as a collaborative approach between all professionals involved in the patients’ care with the aim to provide the best possible care for the patient and to improve clinical outcomes (World Health Organization, 2010). It will focus on key aspects of this role including teamwork, leadership, collaboration and professionalism.
Body paragraphs

Length: approximately 150 – 250 words depending on area of study but there can be longer paragraphs when more information to impart on the one idea.

Begin with a clear topic sentence which relates to the thesis and uses the key terms of the question. Topic sentences guide your argument and provide a ‘skeleton’ for the essay. One idea per paragraph.

Support your points of discussion with relevant examples from your research or codes and standards.

Reference your research sources correctly
Write body in paragraphs

T.....Topic sentence (One sentence that explains the idea for that paragraph)

E.....Explain (Flesh out the idea a bit more)

E.....Evidence (Provide research to support the idea)

L.....Link (Link the idea back to your topic by explaining how the evidence is significant to the topic)
Coherence and cohesion

To write paragraphs that are easy for the reader to follow and understand, you must present your information in a logical sequence (coherence) and show the connections or relationships between the pieces of information (cohesion).
Coherence

Coherence refers to the logical organisation of information in a piece of text.

The main method of ensuring writing is coherent is to plan the organisation of ideas and information in a piece of writing.

How will you organise your ideas?

- Chronological
- Cause and effect
- For and against
- Logical sequence
Cohesion refers to the organisation of your language, which shows how your sentences are connected and related.

There are many techniques that are used to show the relationships between different sentences in a piece of text:

- **Transition signals**: these include connectors, subordinators and conjunctions
- **Repetition**: repeat key nouns or use a limited number of synonyms
- **Pronouns**: substitute pronouns for key nouns
- **Sentence combinations**: use compound and complex sentences
- **Collocation**: words and phrases that ‘go together’ (e.g. a chronic illness, economic downturn)
- **Demonstratives**: this, that, these, those, the, etc.
- **Comparatives**: less, further, additionally, similarly, likewise, etc.
- **Substitution**: one, do, each, etc.
# Transition Word/Phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Link Type</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cause / Reason</td>
<td>as a result; because;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect / Result</td>
<td>as a result; hence; therefore; thus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addition</td>
<td>additionally; furthermore; in addition; moreover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>if; on condition that; providing; unless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contrast</td>
<td>although; by contrast; however; conversely; despite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparison</td>
<td>compared with; in the same way; in comparison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td>for example; for instance; particularly; such as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rewording</td>
<td>in other words; rather; to paraphrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>finally; hence; in all; in conclusion; in short; in summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Sequence</td>
<td>after; firstly; before; eventually; subsequently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>as far as … is concerned; as for; to turn to;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(McMillan & Weyers, 2009, p. 294)
Role of the Registered Nurse

The RN is central to inter-professional healthcare teams as the nursing profession makes up the majority of the healthcare sector (MacDonald et al., 2010). Furthermore, it is especially crucial for the RN as well as other disciplinary team members to understand their role and scope of practice within this team (MacDonald et al., 2010). Broadly speaking, the role of the RN is to provide person-centred and evidence-based care (Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia [NMBA], 2016). Nevertheless, there are also supportive, palliative, emotional, spiritual and preventative elements to the role of the nurse (NMBA, 2016). For instance, RNs within an inter-professional team are able to assess a patient’s health status, develop and implement care plans, administer medication and evaluate results of care (Smolowitz et al., 2015). Additionally, nurses are also able to coordinate the delivery of care by organising and informing other health professionals of patient referrals (Smolowitz et al., 2015). Notably, the role of the RN can extend from the clinical area and into providing education, hospital management and administration and research (NMBA, 2016). Overall, the role of the RN can encompass large aspects of professionalism, leadership, teamwork and interprofessional collaboration. Thus, such aspects must also be considered in regards to the role the RN plays in a multidisciplinary healthcare team.
Clear and logical transitions vital

“Transitions are the mortar that holds the foundation of the essay together. Without logical progression of thought, the reader is unable to follow the essay’s argument, and the structure will collapse. Transitions should wrap up the idea from the previous section and introduce the idea that is to follow in the next section.”

(Owl Purdue, 2018, para. 5)
Another example

Although teamwork is a crucial component of the role of the RN in interdisciplinary teams, the challenges associated with teamwork must also be considered. One major challenge associated with teamwork and inter-professional teams is that of available time and support (Clark, 2011). Often, health professionals indicate they find it hard to find time to work in a team and therefore, they also find it hard to justify to others why it is important to work in a team (Clark, 2011). Similarly, it has been reported that the managers of healthcare workers lack understanding of the importance of teamwork and inter-professional teamwork and thus, do not offer the support that is needed to work effectively as a team (Clark, 2011). Another barrier to teamwork is the way in which patients perceive the constant involvement of more than one health professional at a time (Clark, 2011). Recent research has suggested that patients can find it overwhelming to have a large number of professionals involved in their healthcare (Clark, 2011). Furthermore, considering nursing revolves around the ideal that patient-centred care represent quality care, if a patient is not accepting of working with a team, this may take precedence over the importance teamwork has on the role of the RN in inter-professional practise (Manley et al., 2011).
Conclusions

- Restates the topic.
- Sums up the key arguments in relation to topic/thesis.
- No new ideas.
- Finishes with statement to broader topic/suggests solution and ties into the introduction or background.
Conclusion

Make a final point which tells the reader what to think or do.
Why should the reader adopt your point of view?
Example conclusion

The registered nurse plays an important role in the healthcare inter-professional team. It is evident that there are many aspects that contribute to the role of a registered nurse within the team, including professionalism, leadership and leadership styles, effective and ineffective teamwork and inter-professional collaboration. The Nursing and Midwifery Board has set out standards to guide registered nurses and their professional behaviour and clinical practices. This includes the code of conduct, code of ethics, guides to professional boundaries, and standards for practice/competency standards. Ultimately, research has shown that when each of these aspects are effectively demonstrated within the nursing practice within a team, it results in the provision of safe, holistic and high-quality care to all patients. As the roles and responsibilities of the registered nurse continues to increase, it is important for all nurses to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to implement these concepts, which in turn makes them an invaluable member of the inter-professional team.
To summarise:

The structure of the strong critical essay is held together by the following.

- A clear, concise, and defined thesis statement/purpose that occurs in the first paragraph of the essay.
- Clear and logical transitions between the introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Body paragraphs that include evidential support.
- Evidential support
- A conclusion that does not simply restate the thesis, but readdresses it in light of the evidence provided.
Academic Style

Features of Academic Writing

- Written in the third person (no I, we, us, our, you)
- Formal language
- Objective language
- Precise and specific vocabulary
- Clarity and conciseness
- Tentative language
- Accuracy
- Coherence and cohesion
- Correct in-text referencing and paraphrasing
- Accurate reporting words
A word on referencing


- **In-text:**
  
  Surname and year only for **paraphrasing** e.g.

  *Smith (2014) stated….. or*
  
  *The objective of nursing care is to resolve actual health problems, prevent potential problems and maintain a patient’s healthy state (Phillips, 2013).*

- **End-text:** review ECU Quick Referencing Guide and follow the format depending on the source type

- [http://ecu.au.libguides.com/referencing](http://ecu.au.libguides.com/referencing)
- Referencing for Beginners Resource
Proofing and editing

- **Editing** focusses on the *structure* of your *ideas* within paragraphs i.e. What you say.

- **Proofreading** focusses on the *grammar and punctuation*. If this is not your strong point, go to this site for the rules:
  
  https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/6/

  and this site for online practice exercises:
  
  https://owl.english.purdue.edu/exercises/

Download a free version of Grammarly

https://www.grammarly.com/native/windows
Formatting

- As you are writing your assignment in Cadmus, you do not need to strictly follow the SNM Assignment Guidelines.
- You do not need the ECU cover sheet or Table of Contents, but you can still put a title page.
- You still need to conform to academic writing structure and style and write in paragraphs with headings (if you choose).
- Use a first line indent for each paragraph.
- Main headings bolded and on the margin. Sub-headings (if used) indented and bolded.

Your assignment saves automatically in Cadmus, but don’t forget to click the SUBMIT button when you are submitting your assignment.
What will the marker be looking for in my answer?

That you have planned, researched and written a well structured academic essay that critically discussing all aspects of the topic and provides recent, credible evidence from nursing literature and the codes and standards to support your argument.
Good luck!
Where to find the recording and slides of this workshop

Welcome to the Nursing Specific Workshop Section

Hello and welcome to the Nursing Library Guide. In today’s world we have so much information at our fingertips, but it is becoming more difficult and time consuming to find the information we actually need quickly and efficiently. The aim of this guide is to help you get started finding information for your Assignments or Research. It brings together in one place, some of the most common and useful ECU Nursing resources available from the library, including the guide, that will allow you to develop effective information finding skills. Use the tabs above to find books, Databases, Journals and other resources.

If you are new to ECU or are returning to study after a few years, the resources available under the ‘Getting Started’ tab will guide you through how to access and use library resources; it includes week by week material aimed at increasing your skills gradually over the semester.
Nursing: Nursing Unit Specific Workshops

How to find information for your nursing assignments

Nursing Specific Workshop by Unit

Below is a list of Unit specific workshops that Maureen Buckingham (Senior Learning Adviser for the School of Nursing and Midwifery) and I will be running in Semester One 2018. However if you are not enrolled in any of the units listed please do come along towards the end of workshop where Maureen and I will be available to help you.

**These Workshops are in addition to any Unit Drop-ins delivered as part of the Unit Teaching. Refer to your Unit Blackboard site for details of these.**

*The workshop recordings will be linked to the Workshop Title when they become available.*

**NCS1101 Health and Healthcare Systems**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wed April 11</td>
<td>12.30 - 1.30pm</td>
<td>JO2.137</td>
<td>Search strategy and using the library databases for your essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Thurs April 12</td>
<td>12.30 - 1.30pm</td>
<td>JO2.141</td>
<td>Search strategy and using the library databases for your essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wed April 18</td>
<td>12.30 - 1.30pm</td>
<td>JO2.137</td>
<td>Writing your essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tues April 24</td>
<td>12.30 - 1.30pm</td>
<td>JO2.137</td>
<td>Writing your essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SNM Mid semester</td>
<td>Tues 1 May</td>
<td>12.30 - 1.30pm</td>
<td>JO21.311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SNM Mid semester</td>
<td>Wed 2 May</td>
<td>12.30 - 1.30pm</td>
<td>JO21.311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Further assistance

Cadmus Help Button ?

General assignment drop-ins

Studiosity (access from Blackboard home page under My Communities)

Referencing queries: library@ecu.edu.au

General learning support queries learningadviser@ecu.edu.au