NUR1101

Essay

Maureen Buckingham – Senior Learning Adviser
Edith Cowan University
Centre for Learning and Teaching
CLT Learning Support

**Topic**
Break down the task.

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

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

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

**Research Strategy**
- Thinking
- Planning
- More planning
- Organising
- Reviewing
- Writing
- Re-writing

**Active reading and note-taking.**

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

**Finalise draft essay plan**
Toggling back and forth other the first 4 steps.
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Toggling back and forth other the first 4 steps.
Start with lots of questions:

- What exactly are you being asked to do?
- What type of assessment is it?
- What steps will you need to take to do it?
- What questions do you need to answer?
- Which sources will you need to consult? Where will you look?
- What is specified by the assessment criteria?
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.
Breaking down the task

Instruction words: Critically compare the public's stereotypical view of the characteristics of a nurse and nursing against the nurses view of what are the necessary characteristics of a nurse and nursing.

Content phrase (topic): Word count: 1500

Focus/Parameters
• Critically Compare

Show how things are similar and different
What does the literature indicate?

Review your research from the first two assignments and also do further research.

What is the public view of nurses/nursing and their characteristics in the mass media?

What is the nurses/professions’ view of nurses and their characteristics?

Are the views the same or different? As you research, you will start to form your position. This will become your thesis.
Start with a concept map to organise your thoughts

Mass media/public view

- How nursing profession is portrayed/viewed?

- Similarities

- Differences

Nurses/profession view
Must have at least 8 peer reviewed journal articles of 5 years or less.

Review previous library workshops if you are still struggling with search strategies and using the databases.
How to write a comparative essay?

A comparative essay is a composition made of many paragraphs that try to explain how two subjects are either similar or different.
Planning and research is key

Comparative essays involves a lot of pre-writing/planning and research

You need to develop a list of the ways the subjects are the same and how they are different.
Planning is a must.....

Download the Planning template from Module 5 of the online academic skills modules
Back and forth process

It will be a back and forth process of researching, skimming and scanning academic sources, reading, critically analysing literature for both sides in order to decide on your narrative - arguments/main ideas and their order in your plan and how to structure the essay.
How to structure a comparative essay?

 Depends on how similar or different the subjects are?

 Alternating method
 Compare different elements one by one throughout

 Block method
 Cover one subject fully and then the other.
Structure of your essay

Introduction (150 words approx)

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

Main Idea

Main Idea

Main Idea

Main Idea

Conclusion (150 words approx)

References
Essay outline

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

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

Restate thesis
Summarise argument
Introduction

- Introduce topic
- Context
- Purpose/thesis

Structure/Focus on the essay
The structure of the essay is held together by a clear, concise, and defined thesis statement that occurs in the first paragraph of the essay.
Clear thesis is important

To make your topic idea into a thesis you need to turn the topic idea into a question first.

Your answer to this question is your thesis.

E.g. Are nurses and the characteristics of nursing viewed/portrayed in the same way by the public/mass media as nurses and nursing profession?

A possible thesis:

There are significant contrasting views of nurses and their characteristics portrayed by the mass media to that held by nurses and the nursing profession. This essay will critically compare the views showing that the mass media largely has portrayed a negative image of nursing and perpetuated stereotypes of their roles, while the profession and nurses …..
Body paragraphs

Body paragraphs must include evidential support from current literature.

Each paragraph should be limited to the discussion of one general idea. This will allow for clarity, readability and direction throughout the essay.

It is important to note that each paragraph in the body of the essay must have some logical connection to the thesis statement in the introduction.

It is also important to explain how and why the evidence supports the thesis.
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)
The hamburger analogy

- **Topic sentence**
- **Supporting sentences:**
- **Concluding sentence**

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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)
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?
To summarise:

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

- A clear, concise, and defined thesis statement 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
What will the marker be looking for in my answer?

That you plan, research and write a critical essay that gives a position/stance on the statement and provides recent, credible evidence from nursing literature to support your argument.
Good luck!
Where to find the recording and slides of this workshop
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>
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<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>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Wed April 18</td>
<td>12.30 - 1.30pm</td>
<td>JO2.137</td>
<td>Writing your essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tues April 24</td>
<td>12.30 - 1.30pm</td>
<td>JO2.137</td>
<td>Writing your essay</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tues 1 May</td>
<td>12.30 - 1.30pm</td>
<td>JO21.311</td>
<td>Drop-In for Essay (no recording)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNM Mid semester</td>
<td>Wed 2 May</td>
<td>12.30 - 1.30pm</td>
<td>JO21.311</td>
<td>Drop-In for Essay (no recording)</td>
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</tbody>
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Further assistance

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

Book an appointment:
https://askus2.ecu.edu.au/s/article/000001642