NURSING RESEARCH BASICS

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Research Process Steps

Source: https://www.virtuallibrary.info/research-process.html
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

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

Source: 3.2 Components of a scientific paper - BSCI 1510L Literature and Stats Guide - Research Guides at Vanderbilt University, https://tinyurl.com/257ywv45
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 Hofstra 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

Source: University of Michigan, Sweetland Center for Writing, https://tinyurl.com/5n73f5z4
Research Process Summary

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