

Academic Writing and Referencing for Your Nursing Degree: Critical Study Skills

As a nursing student, you will be required to produce various forms of academic writing, including essays, reports, and research papers. It is essential that you develop strong academic writing skills to succeed in your studies and prepare for your future career.



Academic Writing and Referencing for your Nursing Degree (Critical Study Skills) by Jane Bottomley

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 4077 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 93 pages
Paperback	: 120 pages
Item Weight	: 6.8 ounces
Dimensions	: 6.15 x 0.3 x 9.2 inches



In addition to writing well, you will also need to be able to reference your sources correctly. Referencing is the process of acknowledging the sources you have used in your work. This is important for two reasons: first, it gives credit to the authors whose work you have used; and second, it allows your readers to find and read the sources for themselves.

There are a variety of different referencing styles, and the style you use will depend on the discipline you are studying and the requirements of your

instructor. Some of the most common referencing styles include the American Psychological Association (APA) style, the Modern Language Association (MLA) style, the Chicago style, and the Harvard style.

In this guide, we will provide you with an overview of academic writing and referencing. We will cover the following topics:

- The importance of academic writing
- The different types of academic writing
- The principles of effective academic writing
- The different referencing styles
- How to avoid plagiarism

The Importance of Academic Writing

Academic writing is a form of communication that is used to convey information and ideas in a clear and concise manner. It is a skill that is essential for success in higher education and beyond.

There are a number of reasons why academic writing is important:

- **It helps you to develop your critical thinking skills.** When you write an academic paper, you must analyze and synthesize information from a variety of sources. This process helps you to develop your critical thinking skills, which are essential for success in any field.
- **It helps you to communicate your ideas effectively.** Academic writing requires you to communicate your ideas clearly and concisely.

This skill is essential for success in both your academic and professional life.

- **It helps you to prepare for your future career.** Many careers require you to be able to write effectively. By developing your academic writing skills, you can prepare yourself for a successful career.

The Different Types of Academic Writing

There are a variety of different types of academic writing, each with its own purpose and format. Some of the most common types of academic writing include:

- **Essays:** Essays are short pieces of writing that explore a particular topic. They typically have a clear thesis statement and are supported by evidence from research.
- **Reports:** Reports are longer pieces of writing that present the results of research or analysis. They are typically divided into sections, including an , methods, results, and discussion.
- **Research papers:** Research papers are long pieces of writing that present the results of original research. They are typically divided into sections, including an , literature review, methods, results, discussion, and .
- **Literature reviews:** Literature reviews are pieces of writing that summarize and evaluate the existing research on a particular topic. They are typically used to identify gaps in the literature and to suggest directions for future research.
- **Book reviews:** Book reviews are pieces of writing that evaluate a particular book. They typically summarize the book's main arguments

and provide a critique.

The Principles of Effective Academic Writing

There are a number of principles that you can follow to write effective academic papers. These principles include:

- **Use clear and concise language.** Your writing should be easy to read and understand. Avoid using jargon or technical terms that your readers may not be familiar with.
- **Organize your paper logically.** Your paper should flow smoothly from one section to the next. Use headings and subheadings to help organize your content.
- **Support your arguments with evidence.** When you make a claim, be sure to support it with evidence from research or other sources. This will help your readers to understand your reasoning and to evaluate the validity of your claims.
- **Proofread your work carefully.** Before you submit your paper, proofread it carefully for errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. You may also want to ask a friend or colleague to review your paper and provide feedback.

The Different Referencing Styles

As mentioned earlier, there are a variety of different referencing styles. The style you use will depend on the discipline you are studying and the requirements of your instructor.

Some of the most common referencing styles include:

- **APA style:** The APA style is used in the social sciences, including psychology, sociology, and education.
- **MLA style:** The MLA style is used in the humanities, including English, literature, and history.
- **Chicago style:** The Chicago style is used in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.
- **Harvard style:** The Harvard style is used in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.

Each of these referencing styles has its own set of rules. It is important to

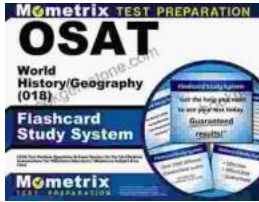


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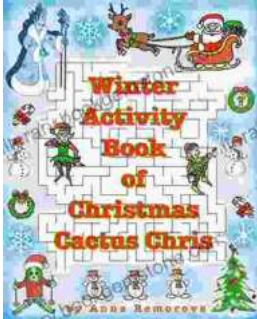
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