

Guidelines for Identifying Research Evidence and Writing Research Evidence Appraisals

NURS 610

Finding Articles

- Rather than using a *Google* search, use EMU's library online search engine.
- From EMU's library home page,
- Scroll down to "Finding Articles . . ."
- Click on *Databases*
- Choose *CINAHL* or *Academic Search Complete*
- Go to the search page shown below and type your area of interest in *Search*
- Scroll down to *Limit Search*
- Choose *Research* and *Evidence-Based Practice*
- You should also limit the search to articles published within the last five years. Older articles are acceptable, however, if they seem to include timeless advice or evidence. Ask your professor.
- Quality improvement projects and other forms of evidence are okay. Try to limit the number of "expert opinion" articles (such as commentaries or editorials). Two or three are okay.
- If an article is not available in full text, request it from inter-library loan via a pre-filled request form.

Making Sense of Each Article and Extracting Important Information: Completing the Appraisal

1. **Note that your first appraisal assignment will be the submission of the first five appraisals; the second appraisal assignment will be a submission of the last five appraisals.**
2. Number each article (1-10).
3. Then, open the *Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (Appendix E)*. This is found in the Student Resources section in the *Moodle* course room (boxes on the right of the screen). For all other articles, use the *Non-Research Appraisal Tool (Appendix F)*
4. Scroll down to the *Qualitative, Quantitative, or Mixed Methods* boxes. Click on the blue segment while holding down the *Ctrl* button on your keyboard. This will take you to the appraisal segment you will be using (Sections IA, IIA or III).
5. After you download the appraisal form, turn on editing in the *Word* document and you should have a fillable form -- meaning that you can work directly on that form.
6. Answer the questions in the appraisal. Use this as an opportunity to review terms and understand the article. It is okay if you don't understand all the statistics. The significance of the results will be included in the article.

7. Then, fill in the remaining boxes on page 1 except the bottom two boxes, which will be completed after you check off all the boxes.

After You've Checked All the Boxes

1. Then, go back to the first page of the appraisal form and fill in the evidence quality and rating box.
2. Next, write a summary of the article.
3. **Important Note:** I have created two templates that will make writing the summary easier. The first is for use in Levels I and II evidence. The second is for Levels III, IV, and V evidence. These templates are found in the “Commonly Used Student Resources” block on the right in the *Moodle* course room
4. A sample appraisal is found in *Moodle*.
5. Delete from your document all the blank appraisals that don't pertain.

Putting All Appraisals in One Document for Submission

1. Thank you for doing this. My job will be so much easier if I have just one document per student to open. This is how to do it.
2. Start a new *Word* document.
3. Then, go to *Layout* on top ribbon.
4. On the left, click on *Orientation*.
5. Choose *Landscape* (This works well to keep boxes in the appraisals from going off the page).
6. Do this to paste all your individual appraisals into one document: first, go to the *Insert* tab at the very top of the ribbon.
7. Move the cursor all the way to the right on the ribbon and click on the down arrow beside *Object*.
8. Click on *Text from File*.
9. Browse the files that you have carefully saved so they can be found easily.
10. To add them all at one time, hold down the *Ctrl* button on the left side of your keyboard while you click on each file in sequence.
11. Then, click on the *Insert* box and everything should be there. (Hold your breath).
12. The nice thing is that the pages will be numbered in sequence for you.
13. Name it and save it.

Lastly, Make a Word Document for All Summaries

1. I will edit and comment on the summaries you write for each appraisal you have entered into the box on the first page labeled *Study findings that help answer the EBP question*.

2. It will help to have them all pasted into one document.
3. To do this, create a new Word document and label it *Review of Literature from First 5 Appraisals* (or something similar)
4. Copy and paste together the paragraphs you wrote in each summary box for each individual appraisal. Perhaps you want to create a subheading to separate them.
5. Upload this also in the link provided in *Moodle*.

PS: 8/18/2024