Guidelines for Writing the Evidence-Based Practice Review of Literature Paper (EBP ROL)

1. Read these instructions several times to allow them to sink in.

2. Read the sample paper and “see how it was done.”

3. When you submit this paper, please include all research reports in the envelope.

4. “Concise and Succinct”: A Goal of the Evidence-Based Project Review of Literature
   - First, note that the template does NOT ask for you to describe the method of the study.
   - It simply asks you to give the number in the sample(s) and state whether the method was qualitative, quantitative or mixed (both quantitative and qualitative).
   - Some studies look at the relationships between lots of variables. In this case, it may be difficult to determine how much information to include in a concise summary of the findings.
   - To help you with this, please look at the abstract at the beginning of the research article. Typically, the abstract includes the most important findings. These are the ones you should also include in your synthesis.
   - Aim for about 15 pages (and no more than 20 pages) for completed EBP ROL.
     ✓ If your paper is more than this, please edit, edit, edit to look for any redundant statements and other ways you can state anything more concisely.
     ✓ Look, also, for use of passive voice sentence construction as this form results in more words than necessary. (Be sure to use your computer’s grammar checker.)

5. About These Guidelines and the Sample Paper

   These guidelines serve as a template. When it comes to designate categories of information, you may find that each study yields its own category (only one) of information. (That is the case in the sample posted in the Moodle.) Please read this sample!

   It is also possible that a given study may yield findings that fall into several categories. If that is the case, give the full description of the study the first time through and a partial description of the study as you describe pertinent additional findings under subsequent category subheadings. Definitions of “full and partial descriptions” are found in the following text box.
Schematic Outline of EBP ROL

Key Terms
- In order to understand the guidelines, please note definitions of the following terms:
- **Full description of a study** follows the template in its entirety. This includes a brief critique component of the following template.
- **Partial description of a study** includes only the findings. A *partial description of a study* may be used in the paper in a section subsequent to the initial description of the study. Be sure to clearly cite the source of all findings.

You will have seven studies: A,B,C,D,E,F,G. Note that there is no specified number of categories to be captured by this synthesis. Consider developing an outline of your paper that indicates the categories and where the full and partial descriptions might fall. For visual purposes, this is how an outline *may* look:

1. Introduction

2. Subtitle describing Category One findings
   - Full description of Study A
   - Full description of Study B
   - Full description of Study C

3. Subtitle describing Category Two findings
   - Full description of Study D
   - Full description of Study E
   - Partial description of Study A (findings only with citation, of course)
   - Partial description of Study B (findings only with citation)

4. Subtitle describing Category Three findings
   - Full description of Study F
   - Full description of Study G
   - Partial description of Study C (findings only with citation)
   - Partial description of Study D (findings only with citation)
These are the sections of your EBP ROL:

1. Introduction
   - Write an eloquent introduction -- about two pages in length. It should clearly identify the nature of the problem that has led to your interest in discovering scientific evidence to address this topic. Consult any good writing manual for ideas about how to write a great introduction. Following are some ideas about how you might build your introduction:
     ✓ Start with a global description of the importance of nursing in society. An example might be that the Gallup poll shows that American society consistently trusts nurses above all other professionals. (Don't simply say this; look it up for more definitive information on this and then cite the source of your information.)
     ✓ Move on to make a comment about the critical need for basing nursing practice on scientific evidence.
     ✓ Then segue into giving a clear description of the nature of the problem you are addressing in your evidence-based practice project. Use considerable detail.
     ✓ Be sure to define key terms (and provide citations.)
     ✓ Include any pertinent background and history pertaining to your problem or topic of interest and what has led you to believe this problem is of great significance to the nursing profession.
     ✓ Your introduction should contain five to 10 citations; having a lot of citations adds credence to the significance of the problem and the scholarliness of your writing.
     ✓ In a few sentences at the end of the introduction, describe the project you plan to carry out. Note: You won't know for sure how the project is going to evolve, but just give an initial idea, even if it is just to share the research-based evidence with colleagues via a presentation and/or scholarly poster.

2. Body of the Paper -- In this part of the paper, you will fill in the blanks following the prompts
   A. Full Description of First Category of Findings (Design a subtitle for this)
      In ________ (write date of publication), ___________ (write authors’ names. Use “et al.” if you have mentioned these authors earlier in the paper), used ________ design (place name of design in blank space) to discover ____________________ (write the purpose of the study here.) These researchers used a sample (N = _____) (In the preceding blank, place the number in the total sample) of _________ (describe the nature of the sample).
      Using ____________ (write either “qualitative” or “quantitative”) methods, ______ et al. (date) found ________________________________. (This is where you describe in a paragraph or two what these researchers found with regard to only this particular category.)
This _______ (In this blank, place the level and strength of evidence based on the
*Hopkins Scale* found in your syllabus) study was ___________________ (substitute “well
conducted” or “reasonably well conducted”). ___________________ (In this space you
might mention one or more of the most glaring limitations. (See “Tips” box below.)

Then, go on to make complete the following statement.

Despite limitations, I believe that the findings of this study by ________ (substitute
author et al., date) are generalizable with caution to my work setting. (OR, you might use the
following statement: ) This study by ________ (substitute author et al., date) was very well
conducted and I believe that the findings are generalizable to my work setting.

### Tips for keeping the critique portion really precise

- Go back and read the sample
- Consider the following as limitations worth mentioning
  - Convenience sample
  - “Paper and pencil” or *Survey Monkey*- type instruments for which reliability and
    validity were not established or mentioned in the report (because the data
    yielded by these instruments could be meaningless)
  - If the study was conducted in another country, state whether or not you believe
    that any cultural factors may influence the generalizability of the findings. Note:
    The word “generalizable” is used for quantitative studies and “transferrable” is
    used for qualitative studies.

### B. Full Description of the Second Category of Findings

(Design a subtitle for this)

In __________ (write date of publication), ___________ (write authors’ names. Use
“et al.” if you have mentioned these authors earlier in the paper), used __________ design
(place name of design in blank space) to discover ________________ (write the purpose of
the study here.) These researchers used a sample (N = _____) (In the preceding blank,
place the number in the total sample) of ___________ (describe the nature of the sample).
Using ____________ (write either “qualitative” or “quantitative”) methods, ______ et al. (date) found ____________________________. (This is where you describe in a paragraph or two what these researchers found with regard to only this particular category.)

This ______ (In this blank, place the level and strength of evidence based on the Hopkins Scale found in your syllabus) study was ________________ (substitute “well conducted” or “reasonably well conducted”). ____________________ (In this space you might mention one or more of the most glaring limitations. (See “Tips” box.)

Then, go on to make complete the following statement.

Despite limitations, I believe that the findings of this study by ________ (substitute author et al., date) are generalizable with caution to my work setting. (OR, you might use the following statement: ) This study by ________ (substitute author et al., date) was very well conducted and I believe that the findings are generalizable to my work setting.

C. Full Description of the Third Category of Findings (Design a subtitle for this)

In ________ (write date of publication), ___________ (write authors’ names. Use “et al.” if you have mentioned these authors earlier in the paper), used __________ design (place name of design in blank space) to discover ________________ (write the purpose of the study here.) These researchers used a sample (N = _____) (In the preceding blank, place the number in the total sample) of ___________ (describe the nature of the sample).

Using ______________ (write either “qualitative” or “quantitative”) methods, ______ et al. (date) found ____________________________. (This is where you describe in a paragraph or two what these researchers found with regard to only this particular category.)

This ______ (In this blank, place the level and strength of evidence based on the Hopkins Scale found in your syllabus) study was ________________ (substitute “well
conducted” or “reasonably well conducted”). ____________________ (In this space you
might mention one or more of the most glaring limitations. (See “Tips” box.)

Then, go on to make complete the following statement.

Despite limitations, I believe that the findings of this study by ________ (substitute
author et al., date) are generalizable with caution to my work setting. (OR, you might use the
following statement: ) This study by ________ (substitute author et al., date) was very well
conducted and I believe that the findings are generalizable to my work setting.

3. **No conclusion is necessary for the EBP ROL**

4. **Go back and re-read all directions above and edit, edit, edit.**