

Collect and Organize your Reference Papers

You want to start with a review of the appropriate literature for your planned paper. Identify the number of references that you will need to locate from credible sources. This will generally not include any of the required textbooks/reading for your Nursing NRSG courses.

You will be looking for articles from nursing journals that are from the professional literature, academically sound, and relevant. Ensure that you are using current sources that are not more than ten years old and preferably less than five years since publication. The exception of “classic” publications which may be older. Your instructor may give you a suggested list to choose from. You can also check in with your discipline Librarian to search for what you need.

When you find articles in the general area that you are interested in, you will want to start by reading the paper’s abstract to see if it fits or matches the topic that you are being asked to write about. Then check the reference list for the paper. Do you recognize any of the authors? Do they research and write about the topic you are working on? If you can see the connections you are on the right track.

When you have found a suitable number of applicable and appropriate papers you are ready to start reading the papers more deeply to extract the information that will support your thesis in your paper. As you read and start to develop your ideas about what you want to write about, you will start the process by mapping out the main concepts that you will cover in your assigned paper.

Activity – Find relevant journal articles

Given your topic and any recommendations from your instructor, locate and then make a list of suitable journal articles in the Library database (or other locations).

Read the abstracts to identify the most suitable articles for your topic.

Read the full articles that you have chosen to understand the meaning that the author(s) are trying to convey. Take notes of the ideas and any particularly interesting quotes.