Citing Literature.pdf

Prof Shelley Kinash, University of Southern Queensland

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/shelley_kinash/250/
Citing Literature

Dr. Shelley Kinash
skinash@bond.edu.au
Acting Director
Quality, Teaching, and Learning
Bond University

Here are some questions and information to consider as you prepare your university assignments.

Have you supported all of your propositions and hypotheses through observations and the literature?

Have you defined your key terms?

When you have included a direct quotation, have you introduced the relevance of the quote in your own words, then inserted the quote, and finally interpreted the quote and its direct application to the focus of your analysis?

Have you ensured that your in-text and end-text referencing complies with the APA publication standards?
   i.e. Have you obtained a copy of the standards and checked your citations for compliance?

ISBN: 978-1-55798-791-4

Website: [http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html](http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html)

Have you used direct quotations sparingly, whenever possible using your own words instead?

When referencing the ideas of others, have you credited the source?
   i.e. Have you included the proper in-text citation?

Have you considered the reliability of your sources?

   For example, did you know that Wikipedia is not a reliable source for definitions? Anyone can enter definitions on Wikipedia. For a university course, you are required to ensure that your sources have
expertise in the domain. Wikipedia is often useful to lead you to such expert sources.

Are you using secondary referencing only where primary references are absolutely unavailable? Do you know what secondary referencing is? This is when you write - Brown (2000) as quoted in White (2007) wrote that ... It is commendable that you learned of Brown's contribution to the literature through reading White. Now, go to White's reference list, find the citation for Brown, use the USQ data base to find the Brown piece, read the original Brown, and provide your own interpretation of the Brown article, rather than relying on White's interpretation.

Did you know that a strong indication of literature reliability is peer-review, or in other words, refereed papers? Do you know what peer-reviewed or refereed publications means? When I have conducted research, and written-up my interpretations, I have several colleagues critique my work. I edit the paper accordingly. Then I send it off to the editor of my chosen journal. The editor sends it to three reviewers, who are selected for their expertise in the field within which I am writing. The three reviewers send back extensive comments, and an evaluation of: a) publish as is; b) publish with minor changes; c) publish with major changes, or d) do not publish. Usually, the editor sends the article back to me with a combined rating of b or c. I make the changes and send them back to the editor. The editor makes the decisions as to whether or not the revisions meet the recommendations of the reviewers. Then the paper is published in the next available journal. All of this takes time. It is not uncommon for a year or two to pass between completion of the research paper and publication. After all of this, you can rest fairly well assured that you are reading a reliable publication.

Where can I find these papers? USQ provides you with wonderful tools of online databases that link you directly to PDF versions of the full-text papers. If you do not know how to use this resource, sign up for one of many courses offered through the USQ library.

Am I permitted to share my own ideas, insights, and observations? Yes, this is a highly desirable component of academic writing. Including your own insights and observations ensures that your paper is situated in a specific context, and that you are engaging in critical thinking. Provide cues to your reader that these are your own observations. Explicitly support and/or contrast these insights with what is written in the literature.

Have you included empirical research? Empirical papers evolve through research. Researchers have framed research questions, observed education phenomena, and then interpreted the results and what matters. When including empirical research, be sure to critically and explicitly
consider the authors' methodology. For example, what were their questions? How many people were interviewed? What led them to their stated conclusions?

Have you used current literature and seminal thinkers? Yes! For example, in 1910 Dewey's seminal publication was released with respect to thinking and learning. Dewey's observations and insights ground the academic work of theorists and educators today. Within the last ten years, neuro-imaging has facilitated research with remarkable pedagogical implications. It is important to include both in your papers.

Happy Learning!