**DMIT2000**

Research Assignment

Though this is not truly a formal academic style research assignment, the rationale is the same for all research endeavours; to further develop your researching and critical-thinking skills.

**Rational:**

1. Formal research starts with an inquiry (research question). The researcher then conducts a literature review to explore the work of others who have attempted answering the same question. However, what materials are examined and how conclusions are drawn can dramatically impact the authenticity of the research and its findings. Conducting research that is either incomplete or biased can impact one’s professional credibility, if not career. This is why we ask you to look at the pros and cons of your solution, as well as the pros and cons of other solutions you have looked at, before you provide the conclusion.
2. Writing skills and career advancement may be linked. The ability to write a research paper is not only an indication of one’s writing ability, but also can point to intellect. For this assignment we want you to pay attention to detail (**answering the actual research question**), and substantiate your statements (**the quality of the sources you have used – peer reviewed documents and journals, comparing and contrasting potential solutions**), and offer your logical conclusions (clear, methodical flow of your reasoning, plus the supportive arguments and sources for your chosen solution); all of which directly relate to your cognitive skills.
3. This paper is about performing the research to find good, solid, and supportive references for your topic. It’s about how well you incorporate those resources into your writing, not how fast you can complete the paper. Looking for quality writing that shows you really did do the research to find appropriate articles that answer / support your research question.

**Process:**

1. First come up with a “research” question; this is the question that will guide your research efforts to find solution options. This also will motivate you to conduct authentic research. You have already determined a problem and even may have a good sense of the question you are trying to ask, now you take that same informal question you used in the group facilitation and make it a formal research question. The research question can be anything, provided the answer to the research question is not a simple Yes or No. Often, research questions start with “what”, “how” or “why”, or “to what extent”. Your research question MUST NOT indicate you are focusing on a single solution to the problem. That’s what your conclusion is for. For example, your research question can be:

What measures can be taken to reduce global warming?

or

What are the most effective measures to reduce motor vehicle accidents?

or

What activities can students participate in to gain work experience?

1. Submit your research question to Moodle link provided or see your instructor to discuss your topic. Once decided, start your research.
2. Examine sources that directly address the question.
3. Find 3 or 4 solutions that work for your problem. Research the pros and cons of your solution; you need to provide both as part of your research.
4. Provide a conclusion to indicate why your solution is the better choice.
5. Using the APA Template provided, write 4 (plus or minus 50 words) pages of quality content (title page, reference list, diagrams, etc do not count as content) as follows:
   1. Name the file: **LastName Section# Research Paper.doc.**
   2. English writing and grammar must be proofed – errors draw the reader’s attention away from the content, which is not what you want.
   3. You do not need a table of contents.
   4. Do not write a paper in bulleted or list format, write in full sentences.
   5. Cite at least 15 credible sources (at least 5 peer reviewed – journal articles, texts, documentaries, etc) in your paper from the NAIT library or from a source like Google Scholar. Credible also means the information provided clearly relates to your position / research question.
   6. Include a correct APA reference list.
   7. Submit your paper to Moodle.
   8. Do not rush. Remember, most of the time of an academic writer is spent finding useful information. Writing is a small part.
   9. Only submit 4 (plus or minus 50 words) pages of content, this is to encourage you to write succinctly. In writing, more is not always better.