04706 Academic Writing: Analytical Writing

Assignment 2

Submission date: TBC

For Assignment 2, you will review literature to answer a specific research question. Your response should describe, analyze and synthesize relevant research findings in order to answer the research question and should also highlight and discuss a research gap.

For this assignment, you should submit:

1. A plan of your literature review (worth 33% of the assignment). This should include:
   1. Topic sentences, cited reasons to support the topic sentences, and cited, relevant for each of your four main paragraphs.
   2. A complete reference list
2. Your literature review written in full (worth 66% of the assignment). This should include:
3. An introduction which includes an overview of the field; a study niche; the purpose of your study and/or a research question; your approach; and an overview of the key points you will make.
4. A 4-paragraph body whichprovides an overall response to your research question. Your structure should be thematic and follow a logical pattern typical of literature reviews, and your final paragraph should include the identification and discussion of a specific research gap. Each paragraph must contain one central point, as well as supporting points or reasons, relevant examples/evidence and analysis. You should make use of at least 8 academic sources in total and, wherever possible, **synthesize research findings**.
5. A conclusion which includes a brief summary of your purpose and approach; a brief summary of your key findings; a short discussion of the possible implications of your findings; and potential further research.
6. An appropriate title

You should write in a broadly academic style, making use of hedging language and abstract nouns where appropriate, and precise and concise language throughout.

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Assignment 2 Rubric

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|  | **Criteria:** | **Description:** | **Points:** |
| **Plan:** | Structure | The plan includes one central point, as well as supporting reasons, relevant examples and analysis in each content (body) paragraph | /2 |
| The plan provides reasons which logically support the topic sentence, and examples which are relevant in demonstrating the validity of the given reasons | /2 |
| The plan uses a thematic structure and the overall order of paragraphs follows a logical pattern | /1 |
| Use of sources | The plan makes reference to at least 8 academic sources[[1]](#footnote-1); additional academic and specific non-academic sources may also be used | /2 |
| The plan demonstrates synthesis of sources, particularly when being used to support reasons | /1 |
| The student includes accurate in-text citations and a full reference list[[2]](#footnote-2) | /2 |
| **Composition:** | Content: | The student identifies and discusses a specific research gap based on their research findings | /2 |
| The student includes a relevant title, complete introduction[[3]](#footnote-3), 4 content paragraphs, and a complete conclusion[[4]](#footnote-4) | /4 |
| The plan provides a clear, well-developed and detailed response to the research question | /4 |
| Language | The student uses precise language, including technical and domain-specific terms if required, throughout the text | /2 |
| Style | The student uses a broadly academic, readable, and concise style, with examples of hedging language, extended noun phrases, and abstract nouns where appropriate | /3 |
| The student uses a range of cohesive devices, such as old-new information flow, repetition of key nouns, and linking words/phrases | /3 |
| Accuracy | The student’s writing is broadly accurate, such that errors in grammar or punctuation do not impede readability | /2 |
| **Total:** | | | **/30** |

1. Academic sources include research papers and conference papers. Additional types of sources that may be used include government and institutional data. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The student may use any appropriate, academic referencing style, such as IEEE or Harvard, but must be consistent when using the selected style [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A complete introduction should include: an overview of the field; a study niche; the purpose of the study and/or a research question; the approach; and an overview of the key points that will be made. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. A complete conclusion should include: a brief summary of the purpose and approach of the literature review; a brief summary of the key findings; and a short discussion of possible implications of the findings and potential further research. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)