

FIT1049 Week 3 Tutorial: Research Skills

DESCRIPTION

This session is designed to provide you with an opportunity to go through the process of research, including gathering appropriate information, evaluating the information, and understanding the need to reporting the findings in an appropriate format, using appropriate referencing and without plagiarising.

The content you prepare in this week's tutorial will be the basis of your presentation during next week's tutorial.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the session students will have a better understanding of

1. Research as a process
2. How to avoid plagiarism
3. Paraphrasing/summarising
4. How to cite references and identify resources and

Note: this tutorial is intended to help you develop the skills you need for Assignment 1, though obviously the research process and the presentation of findings in this tutorial will be more superficial than we expect for the assignment.

ACTIVITY

This session is designed to provide you with an opportunity to go through the process of research, including gathering appropriate information, evaluating the information, and understanding the need for reporting the findings in an appropriate format, using appropriate referencing and without plagiarising.

Each group will be allocated an online article by the tutor for this activity.

Activity 1: Paraphrasing the article (15 min)

Compose a one-paragraph summary of the article **with in-text citation** as appropriate. You need to identify in the article:

- 1) Who's writing what for whom
- 2) Main argument(s), and
- 3) How the main argument(s) was/were presented

This exercise helps you to understand and set out the intentions of the author manifest in the article. Ask your tutor for feedback once completed.

Activity 2: Analysing the nature of the article (20 min)

Each group should analyse their article's currency, stability, authority, accessibility and accuracy. This exercise helps students identify the nature of the article based on these aspects, and also the reasons for this assessment and its implications.

Aspects	Your assessment and evidence	Implications for reliability of Article
Currency Is the article up to date? Has the situation changed? How often do changes occur? (eg Share market versus colour wheel)		

What evidence do you have?		
Authority Who wrote the article? What are their credentials? What is your evidence? Where was it published? Who are the gatekeepers? What is your evidence?		
Accessibility How easy was it to find the article? Do you have to pay? How easy was it to understand the material? What language is it written in? eg English		
Stability Will the information remain the same or is it updated? Is there an archive?		
Accuracy <i>This is covered in the two next tables</i>		

Activity 3: Analysing the sources that are used in the article (20 min)

Identify the sources used in the article using the table below. This exercise helps you identify:

- 1) The sources used (if any),
- 2) The nature of the sources (e.g. primary, secondary, tertiary),
- 3) Degree of representation (e.g. the original sources faithfully represented), and
- 4) Its implication (e.g. making the article trustworthy).

If there are no, or only a few sources used/cited in the article, how does this affect your overall evaluation of the article?

Details of the sources used in the article	Nature of the sources (e.g. primary, secondary, tertiary)	Relationship between the article and the source 1. Does the article cover all of the arguments in the source? 2. Does the article accurately reflect the argument in the source? 3. Is the data in the source accurately given in the article?	Implications (e.g. the source adding further trustworthiness to the article or is it compromising the credibility of the article)

Activity 4: Independent research on the accuracy of the article (20 min)

Identify facts stated in the article then analyse them using the table below. This exercise helps you identify:

- 1) Independent data that confirms the details in the article
- 2) The nature of the independent sources (e.g. primary, secondary, tertiary),
- 3) Accuracy of information in the article (e.g. the original sources truthfully represented), and
- 4) Its implication (e.g. making the article trustworthy).

Details of the independent sources that you found	Nature of the sources (e.g. primary, secondary, tertiary)	Relationship between the article and the source <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Are the facts the same in the article that you found?2. Does the article accurately reflect the argument in the independent research?3. Is the new source credible?	Implications (e.g. the article is more or less trustworthy)

Activity 5: Referencing from the article (5 min)

Compose a correct reference entry for the article using the APA style. Ask your tutor to check it once completed.

- The article that you are working on.
- One of the internal sources
- One of the independent sources

Remember to put them in alphabetical order and use hanging indent.

Activity 6: Writing a report (homework)

Based on your group's responses to the Activities 1, 2, 3 and 4, write a brief report summarising and analysing the reviewed article. Then put the references following the text. This should be presented in paragraph form with subheadings. You should use the [report writing section of the FIT style guide](#) for guidance on how to prepare your report.

eFolio Task: Students should submit their reports into their eFolio.
