

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

HPRF 295

Activity #1: Beginning Literature Search using APA Format

Objectives

Use a variety of library resources to begin a literature search on a research topic.
Type all four references in accordance with APA format guidelines (APA, 5th ed.).
Discuss the relevance of each resource to your area of interest and reflect on the questions provided below.

Directions

1. Identify a topic of interest on which you would like to do further study.

At the top of the page, type the following information:

- a. Your name and discipline (eg. Nutrition, Nursing, Gerontology, H. S.)
- b. The topic searched (keywords or subject areas)

2. Obtain three journal articles and one book.

Use at least two different sources to find the three articles (eg. computerized data bases such as MEDLINE, ERIC, CINAHL, AgeLine; or in-person, hands-on browsing of journals or shelves).

Try to find a book on your topic. To accomplish this, you may type your subject area into the OnLine Catalog in the library or use another current resource.

Make sure that you have sufficient information for the APA reference format.

3. Type each reference in APA format,
i.e., appropriately indented and all parts of the reference conforming to guidelines in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.).
4. Identify the source of each reference: State where/how you found the citation (eg. OnLine Catalog, MEDLINE, CINAHL, hands-on browsing, etc.).
5. After each reference, type a **brief** paragraph about what you read.
Please DO NOT copy the abstract for the article. The following questions may help you think about what to write:
 - For a research article, what was the study trying to find out and what were the findings?
 - For non-research articles, explain the purpose of the article.
 - What ideas or questions did this article or book bring to mind?
 - Do you think this article/book will be important for your research?
(If so, in what way? If not, why not?)Now is the time to do the library tutorial: <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>
6. Write a final paragraph at the end of this assignment addressing the following:
Now that you have done this beginning search, what other information might you need for your literature review--where do you go from here?

This activity is meant to be a “work in progress,” a way to help you get ideas about what is available in the literature and to give you a start on your literature review. It comprises 4% of your grade and will be graded CR/NC.