

## Nursing 3225

### LITERATURE REVIEW TIPS

Use your concept map as your foundation for your conceptual framework (ideally, this framework will serve as your central focus for your N3220 Research Proposal assignment).

You want to synthesize the literature, books, etc. that you have collected in context of your selected concepts from your concept map.

Select 10 – 15 articles (this is approximate), books, other resources that relate to your conceptual framework which comes from your concept map

This serves as a “background” and part of your Problem and Purpose for your research proposal in N3220 – you will also condense the highlights from this Lit Review to include in the literature review section of your N3220 Proposal.

Decide on your research paradigm or design – i.e. If you choose to use a phenomenological research design for your N3220 proposal, you will look at the concepts through a phenomenological lens, e.g. Worldviews, personal meaning, a person's “story”, context, situatedness, constitutedness, participation, questions, themes, etc.

If you are going to use an experimental design in your proposal, you would use a more scientific lens, focusing on independent and dependent variables, hypotheses, control, random selection, objectivity, rationality, empiricism.

If you are going to use an ethnographic design, you would use a cultural lens, people's ways of being, interpersonal relationships, customs, language, beliefs, etc. And so on.....

This lens can be used to present your synthesis of the literature in this assignment, the Literature Review.

Start out by typing all of your major concepts in your empty document, e.g. See sample below. Include relevant subconcepts that you need to include to give meaning to your synthesis.

Then, start reading your resources. As you find pertinent quotes, copy and paste them or type them if using printed material into the appropriate section. Also put key information in your own words into your document as you read.

When done reading each one, add the reference immediately to your reference section to avoid having to do it all at the end.

Once you have read all of your materials, begin to weave them together.

Look for similarities from the literature and weave them together, using transitional words and phrases like, “Similarly”, “Likewise”, “So and so agreed with so and so in that ,....”, and so on.

Then do the same for sources that were dissimilar, using terms like “On the other hand,...”, “In contrast, ....”, and so on.

After this is done you should just have to polish it all, adding in any clarifying writing of your own that is needed to tie it all together, identify gaps, etc..

Also make sure you read the Chapter in LoBiondo Wood and Haber called Literature Reviews. Remember, you are doing the lit review for research purposes...to ground you in what has already been done so you can add to this, fill a gap, address an emerging issue through your N3220 Research Proposal.

This should be a cohesive synthesis of the literature – it is not a critique or a review.

## SAMPLE LITERATURE REVIEW PROCESS

The effects of soothing music on neonatal behavioural states  
in the hospital newborn nursery

**(\*\*\*First put all of your concepts on the page)**

Newborns

Neonatal Behavioural States

**(\*\*\*\* Type in direct quotes as you come across them, adding the reference as you do).**

“One of the seven behavioural states described by Thoman (1990) and considered a high arousal state is Nonalert Waking.” (Kaminski, 1996, p.3).

**(\*\*\*\* Add content in your own words, and reference them accordingly, as you read).**

Thoman described seven states including :

- Quiet Alert
- Nonalert Waking
- Crying
- Transitional
- Drowse/Daze
- Active or REM Sleep
- Quiet or NREM Sleep. (Kaminski, 1996, p. 4)

One of the seven behavioural states described by Thoman (1990) and considered a high arousal state is Nonalert Waking (Anderson, 1989; Brazelton, 1984; Keefe, 1987; Thoman, 1990).

Hospital Environment

Hilton observed that “the hospital newborn nursery is designed and operated according to specific stipulations or standards” (1995, p.7).

## Music

**(\*\*\*) Include relevant subconcepts along with the appropriate main concept).**

Harmony

Tone Colour

Melody

Rhythm

**(\*\*\*) Add your references to the Reference list as you read each one, to avoid having to do it all at once at the end).**

## References

Hilton, A. (1995) lalalal

Kaminski, J. (1996). The effects of soothing music on neonatal behavioural states in the hospital newborn nursery. *Neonatal Network*, 10(1), 91-101.