The Scholarly Paper: Nursing 307

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Welcome to Centre for Writers

We offer free one-on-one writing coaching and support to all students, instructors and staff at the University of Alberta - in any faculty or at any level of study.

Our writing coaches are available to assist clients with higher order concerns in their writing, such as thesis formation, organization and idea development, as well as more specific details, like grammar and documentation style. Clients can bring in any writing project at any stage of development: essays, lab reports, creative pieces, scholarly articles, thesis drafts, application letters - and more. Our coaches will also help students read instructor comments on already-graded papers. ESL and EAL students are welcome!
I work with faculty members to increase the ability of students to write well using these kinds of strategies:

- Writing assignments in courses (formal, graded writing)
- Writing to learn (informal writing)
- Writing in the disciplines (special rules for writing in your academic area)
- Writing intensive courses (curriculum designation)

http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/WAC/
The deliverable:

- Structure is clear
- Challenges: 5-7 sentence intro and conclusion
- Body: structure within it seems open; do you have to answer all these questions or are they meant to be suggestive? Rubric suggests you have to answer them all.
The writing process

Getting started

- Explore the assignment
- Make rough notes
- Pick a tentative topic
- Make an appointment at the writing centre for later in the week
- Get feedback on your draft/revise
- Work on style and lower order concerns
- Proofread, consult checklist for assignment
Invention [prewriting]

Arrangement [organizing the draft]

Style [working on sentences and words]

Memory [n/a]

Delivery [see checklist]
How should you get started?

Prewriting strategies:

- Brainstorming
- Note-taking
- Sample thesis statements
- Idea maps
- Talking, reading
Three questions to ask about a working thesis:

1. Is it specific?
2. Is it manageable for this assignment?
3. Is it interesting for your readers?

Sample thesis for this assignment:
New approaches to pain management stress three kinds of knowledge for nurses to obtain if they are to respond effectively to a patient’s pain: knowledge of self, knowledge of pain, and knowledge of standards of care.¹ The most important of these three areas is knowledge of pain because acquiring this knowledge and making effective judgments about pain is notoriously subjective.
Other possible thesis statements
Background on pain management

Summaries of articles on pain management

Description of pain management guidelines for your clinical unit

What causes these guidelines to change? [or not change to reflect new ideas]

How are these policies communicated on your clinical unit: orally? Documents? Video?

What role do nurses play in pain management?

What new ideas did you find in the research literature that might be used in your clinical unit?

What do you want to know more about re. pain management?
Title: Taking pains to alleviate suffering

Pain management: current research

Pain in my clinical unit: practices already in place

It pains me to say: recommendations for my clinical unit

Feeling no pain: questions for further research
Get a “trusted reader” to get feedback

Consider using other students in the course or the writing centre for this

Ask readers to read for specific purposes: thesis, structure, transitions, development of a particular paragraph or idea
Towards the due date, switch your focus from higher-order concerns (arrangement, arguments, evidence) to lower-order concerns: proofreading, grammar, citation format, grammar/spelling