

Report

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Component 1

Individual Report

*'The importance of Research skills
and referencing*

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LCBB4006_BIRM

Academic Skills

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Introduction

Academic skills are essential for students to excel in their fields, including research, critical thinking, writing, referencing, problem-solving, and communication. However, not all students enter higher education with fully developed skills, posing challenges to academic success and personal growth (Cottrell, 2019). This essay explores the meaning, importance, and practical application of key academic skills, focusing on research and referencing, to emphasise their value in facilitating academic achievement, fostering lifelong learning, and equipping students for future professional endeavours.

Explain the meaning of research skills

The capacity to identify, observe, evaluate, and make efficient use of information is a fundamental component of research abilities. Problem-solving, decision-making, and the ability to contribute to one's area of study or career are all crucial talents that are required in academic, professional, and personal circumstances (Shon, 2017).

The ability to conduct proposed investigations and understand new information depends on the utilisation of essential cognitive strategies known as research skills. The skills included in this set are diverse and complete and consist of, among other things, the capacity to identify an appropriate research issue, establish a structured research strategy. Also, undertake a critical analysis of diverse information sources and evaluate their validity and reliability, integrate information to construct a convincing argument, correctly reference sources for the purpose of avoiding plagiarism, and effectively communicate research findings through written, oral, or visual modalities (Fairbairn and Winch, 2011).

The development of academic writing is fundamentally connected with the acquisition and improvement of research abilities. The process consists of multiple phases.

Completing an assignment involves comprehending the essence and specifications of the task at hand. The ability to understand the requirements of a given question necessitates the use of analytical skills.

Research process entails the identification of the subject matter and the execution of preliminary research to gain a comprehensive understanding of the topic (*Connelly and Forsyth , 2010*).

Writing process involves the formulation of a comprehensive plan that delineates the principal arguments and the essay's framework. A thorough investigation is carried out to obtain corroborating data. The ability to identify, examine, and assess data is of paramount importance.

Academic: The process of writing involves the development of a beginning that offers contextualization and a concise thesis, a body that presents arguments and supporting evidence, and a concluding segment that clearly summarises the primary points (*Bradbury, 2006*).

The process of reviewing and editing an essay involves assessing its clarity, unity, grammar, and punctuation. The ability to engage in critical thinking is essential at this stage in order to ensure that the argument is both argumentative and logically coherent.

Research skills are crucial in various life areas, enhancing understanding, critical thinking, and informed decision-making. They are essential for students, as they promote autonomous learning, increase knowledge, and foster curiosity. Research-based assignments enable students to delve deeper into topics, improve understanding, and engage meaningfully in class discussions (*Fairbairn and Winch, 2011*). In a world filled with misinformation, research skills are essential for discerning reliable sources.

Research skills are crucial for students studying environmental science, analysing existing research, identifying gaps, and contributing original insights. These skills enhance understanding of topics and contribute to the broader academic community. In a professional context, research skills help entrepreneurs understand local markets, competition, customer preferences, and industry best practices, which can significantly impact business success. By correctly identifying, analyzing, and applying these skills, students can enhance their understanding and contribute to the broader academic community.

Explain the meaning of referencing

Reference is an essential component of scholarly writing that entails recognising the origins of data and concepts employed in an academic composition (*Dawson, 2011*). The statement in question constitutes the foundation of academic discussion, in which individuals interact with the concepts suggested by others in order to generate fresh perspectives. This composition clarifies the concept of referencing, establishes its methodology, and examines its import for tertiary-level scholars, supported by important visualisations.

The act of recognising and attributing the sources that have been checked and utilised in one's research is commonly known as referencing in the academic world. This method facilitates the ability to monitor the history of concepts, thus improving scholarly discourse across various temporal and geographic boundaries. The process of referencing generally includes two fundamental elements, namely, in-text citations integrated within the main body of the document and a comprehensive list of references attached at the conclusion of the work.

There are various established citation styles, including Harvard, among others. Distinctive regulations and customs exist for citing books, journal articles, websites, and other kinds of resources in every format.

The process of referencing in academic work involves citing sources to acknowledge original authors and provide evidence for assertions. The first step is understanding plagiarism, which involves using another individual's work without proper attribution. Appropriate citation is crucial for preventing plagiarism (*Cottrell, 2019*). In-text citation is essential in academic writing, typically including the author's surname and publication year.

Students in higher education absolutely need to reference their work for a variety of reasons, including maintaining academic integrity, ensuring the verifiability of material, demonstrating that they have done research, and avoiding plagiarism. It is evidence of academic honesty, respect for the creators of the original work, and adherence to ethical standards (Burns and Sinfield, 2012). The inclusion of references enables readers to go deeper into a subject matter and validates the information's legitimacy by enabling them to track its origins. Students who use correct referencing practises are also better able to avoid being accused of plagiarism, which may have serious implications for their academic careers.

Example: a student in a history course composing a scholarly article concerning the origins of the Second World War. The contributors reference a diverse range of primary sources, including speeches, letters, and government documents, as well as secondary sources such

as academic books and journal articles. (*Dawson, 2011*). The wide range of sources cited by the student indicates to the instructor that the student has comprehended not only the essential events that culminated in the war but also has constantly examined diverse viewpoints on the subject, consequently evidencing a comprehensive and careful investigation.

Conclusion

This discussion highlights the crucial role of referencing in academic writing, as it acknowledges the sources of ideas and information used in a work, pays homage to the original authors, and establishes a traceable lineage of thoughts. Techniques such as avoiding plagiarism, in-text citation, and following referencing conventions are discussed, which uphold the integrity of academic work and facilitate the reader's understanding and exploration of the topic.

Referencing is vital for students in higher education, as it serves as a testament to academic honesty, a tool for extensive research, a means to ensure the traceability of information, and a mechanism to avoid plagiarism. Proper referencing can validate arguments, encourage further exploration, shield students from plagiarism accusations, and showcase the depth and breadth of their research. In essence, referencing is a scholarly practise that bolsters the credibility of a student's work and showcases their commitment to rigorous, ethical academic pursuits.

1. Reference List

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