Writing Lab For the Social Sciences

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This session will assist students in conducting a literature review in the social sciences and preparing papers for submission in accordance with the American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual.

Upon completion of this session students will have a working knowledge of what a literature review is, the four stages of the literature review, the various sources of academic literature, and how to construct a presentable paper on the subject that was researched.

The session will begin with an overview of the Kean University Academic Integrity Policy.
The Nature of Academic Integrity

There are four categories that demonstrate academic integrity:

- Mastery of material
- Representation of sources
- Truthful submission of work
- Access and use of resources
Mastery of material

- It is the responsibility of the student to represent a mastery of the material.
  - Tests
  - Academic exercises
Representation of sources

- It is the responsibility of the student to acknowledge the work of others
  - Truthfully
  - Accurately
  - With specificity
  - Completely
- This includes words, ideas, phrases, sentences, or data.
Truthful submission of work

- It is the responsibility of students to truthfully represent data or other findings.
Access and use of resources

- Students are expected to protect their rights to access and use resources and only access.
- Students shall only access and use authorized resources.

Academic Dishonesty

There are four categories of Academic Dishonesty:

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Fabrication
- Academic Misconduct
Plagiarism

According to the University AIP, “plagiarism occurs when a person represents someone else’s words, ideas, phrases, sentences, or data as one’s own work. Copying or paraphrasing text without acknowledging the source for example is plagiarism.”

Fabrication

According to the University AIP, “fabrication refers to the use of invented information or the falsification of research findings or other results. Listing sources in a bibliography or other report that were not used in the paper or project is an example of fabrication.”

Violations

- There are four levels of violations:
  - One
    - May be attributed to inexperience most commonly involving first-year students.
  - Two
  - Three
  - Four
Writing in the Social Sciences

- Commonly studied areas in the Social Sciences include
  - Anthropology
  - Criminology
  - Criminal justice
  - Political Science
  - Sociology
  - Social work
A starting point

- Know what is expected of you.
- What are the requirements of the assignment?
  - Topic
  - Length
    - Pages
  - Style
    - APA
    - MLA
  - Timeframe
Research skills

- How familiar are you with conducting research?
  - Library
  - Internet
  - Terms
  - Parameters
Preliminary Research

- Familiarize yourself with the potential sources of the literature.
  - Nancy Thompson Library
  - On-line academic libraries
  - Academic discipline
    - College library or collection
    - Professor/instructor
  - Open sources of information
    - Public or private
Stages in the Review

- Topic
- Research the literature
- Evaluation
- Analysis
What is a Literature Review?

A good way of understanding what a literature review is to first recognize what it is not.

- A Lit Review is not a book report, an opinion paper, a qualitative analysis, or a review of literary works.
- A Lit Review is a survey of scholarly work relating to a particular subject.
Scholarly Work

- Scholarly work is found in a variety of mediums:
  - Peer reviewed journals
  - Academic journals
  - Books
  - Conference papers & proceedings
  - Dissertations
Peer Reviewed Literature

- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS)
  - [http://www.acjs.org/](http://www.acjs.org/)
  - *Justice Quarterly* is a multidisciplinary journal that publishes theoretical contributions and empirical studies on issues of crime and justice. We welcome articles from authors trained in all disciplines applying various methodologies to the study of crime and the justice system.

- American Society of Criminology
  - [http://www.asc41.com/](http://www.asc41.com/)

- American Association of Suicidology
  - [http://www.suicidology.org/](http://www.suicidology.org/)
- Police Quarterly
  - http://pqx.sagepub.com/

- The Prison Journal
  - http://www.sagepub.com/journalsProdDesc.nav?prodId=Journal200792

- Harvard Law Review
  - http://www.harvardlawreview.org/
Government Sites

- US Department of Justice
  - http://www.usdoj.gov/
  - http://www.fbi.gov/
  - http://www.state.gov/
Related sites

- Federation of American Scientists
  - [http://www.fas.org/main/home.jsp](http://www.fas.org/main/home.jsp)
- Centers for Disease Control
  - [http://www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)
- RAND Corporation
  - [http://www.rand.org/](http://www.rand.org/)
- Community Oriented Policing (COPS)
Points to consider regarding the topic:

- Personal choice.
  - Is this something that you have an interest in, or would like to learn more?
  - How familiar are you with the topic?
- Assigned.
  - Is this something that obviously the instructor is familiar with?
- Scope and nature of the relevant literature.
What is the topic?

- What is it that you want to research?
- Do you know something about the topic to begin with?
  - Does the topic interest you?
- Is there sufficient literature to support research
  - Your research?
A key to a successful literature review is develop and follow a plan.

The use of an outline is an excellent way to move the plan from concept to reality.
Academic research

- Define your parameters.
  - What is required in this assignment?
    - Academic/scholarly work
    - Social science textbooks
    - Government reports
  - Establish a system for identifying and collecting relevant literature.
    - What works for you?
    - What have other students used?
The Outline

- Topic
  - Introduction
    - Statement of the problem
    - Introduce the sources
  - Body
    - Discuss the literature
- Conclusion
  - Opinion based on the review of the literature
Writing the literature review

- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion
  - Title page
  - Bibliography
Use of headings

- When introducing new material use headings that succinctly describe the material to be presented
Body

- Headings
- Headings
- Headings
  - Make sure that material flows from paragraph to paragraph
  - Introduce new material with headings
Conclusion

- Summarize the material
- Do not introduce new material
- If there is an opinion it should be grounded in the material that was researched
APA format

- The APA style
  - [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)
  - [http://webster.commnet.edu/apa/](http://webster.commnet.edu/apa/)
Examples of APA Style

- Journal article, one author

- Two authors – with issue cited
- Newspaper article, no author

- Newspaper article, with author
Books

- Entire book

- Book edition
On-line government report

Writing the draft

- What are the parameters for your research assignment?
  - Audience
  - Length
  - Style
  - Bibliography
Perhaps the most difficult task related to a discussion on public safety is to adequately define the term. In a holistic sense the term is most often used to describe public organizations, employees and a vast array of resources that are tasked with providing a level of personal and public protection against injury, threat, and/or disaster. The core of public safety is comprised of three basic and interdependent elements; people, places, and things. Each of these elements presents unique complexities that are often further compounded by situational and environmental variables. The overall challenge in improving public safety then becomes a matter of articulating what elements and under what conditions are in need of improvement?
A growing body of literature recognizes the need to understand how the public and specifically first-responders process crisis and traumatic events. Research focusing on natural and human-caused disaster (Meyers, 2001) reveals that the response to human-caused events, such as terrorist incidents, is intensified and prolonged in comparison to a natural disaster.

Nonetheless, the nature of emergency response work, with the constant exposure to traumatic events, raises the possibilities of psychological illness (Violanti, Castellano, O’Rourke, & Patton, 2007) and recent events in the United States have generated new concerns in this regard. The emergence and recognition of a new form of victimization; the high-risk rescuer and the rescuer-victim (Castellano & Pilonis, 2006) has resulted in the identification of the need to develop greater understanding of the psychological impact related to routine as well as extraordinary exposure of first-responders to traumatic incidents (Flannery & Everly, 2000; Everly, 2000).
Police as Guardians

The police are unique from other first-responders in that they are the guardians of society, and as such are authorized to use force to meet and overcome that level of force that they encounter. The extraordinary powers vested in the police in accomplishing the police mission have been noted from one century to the next (Kinnaird, 2003; Vollmer, 1972). These powers, dating back to the early formation of police agencies in the United States, did not originally include the option to use deadly force, although the “unique authority to use force in situations where it is necessary for self-defense, to lawfully arrest a suspect, or to prevent criminal activity” (Blumberg and Kreisel, 2003, p. 148) has been a mainstay of American policing since the beginning. Friedrich (1980) views the use of force by police as theoretically important as it affects the attitudes and behaviors of the public not only toward the police, but also toward government in a general sense.
Questions