

CRM/SOC 300 Information Literacy Assignment

IL Goals: Information Creation as a Process, Research as Inquiry

Students are required to write a mini Review of the Literature for this course. This project is done at the beginning of the research process as the students are beginning to think about their topics and before they have begun searching for information.

The purpose of this assignment is to develop a narrow and focused research question. This research question will be used to develop the keywords for a database search.

This is an online course. The collaborative/peer evaluation element of the project serves to build the online learning course community. This project will take the equivalent of two-three class meetings.

Activity: Develop a Research Question / Searching Terms using Brainstorming Clouds.

Students will develop a research question with one clear independent variable and one clear dependent variable within a specific population. They will use these keywords as the basis for their database searches.

SLO 1: Students will use brainstorming clouds to gain practice identifying the main ideas (keywords) of a research question.

SLO 2: Depending on their area of interest, students will access and use specialized databases: Sociological Abstracts or Criminal Justice Abstracts.

SLO 3: Students will participate in knowledge generation by creating their own grading rubric for this project. They will use this grading rubric to evaluate their peers' submission.

Project Plan Part 1: Developing the Research Question and Initial Search for Sources

1. Students will watch an information video on developing a focused research question from their area of interest. The research question will identify an independent and dependent variable and a particular population of interest. The video will also demonstrate how the independent, dependent variables and the population form three main ideas. I will explain that these main ideas are called "keywords." These keywords will be the center of each brainstorming cloud. I will demonstrate how to brainstorm words related to each of the three keywords.

2. Students will watch an informational Information Literacy (IL) video on key word searches developed by a UNCW Librarian. The video will use the same research question that I used in the video described above. The IL video will demonstrate the results of keyword searches. The Librarian will show how the results change by various search techniques (phrasing, date restrictions, periodical type, etc).

3. Students are put into peer groups of about five.

4. Each group is asked to determine the three most important elements of the process of building the research question and developing a brainstorming strategy.

5. I will compile these elements and advise students that this is the rubric for the assignment below.

Project Plan Part 2: Research Question and Critical Reflection

1. Students develop the research question that they will be using throughout the semester. They will develop their brainstorming maps using the keywords from their research question.
2. Students will record the number of results generated with each change in search strategy demonstrated in the video by the Librarian.
3. Reflection: *Why have we done this? Why would this be helpful for searching? How does this help structure the Literature Review?*
4. Students will compile the focused research question, brainstorming cloud, and six retrieved sources.
5. Students will evaluate peer submissions based on their grading rubric.
6. I will also evaluate submissions based on the class grading rubric. I will also evaluate the peer reviews. I will focus on how well the students applied the grading rubric to their peer evaluation.