

HLTH1306 ASSESSMENT EXERCISE 3 WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

These FAQs should be read in conjunction with the assignment guidelines, checklist and feedback sheet which are located on FLO in the Assessment Resources module. Some questions that are very specific are not able to be answered because we do expect students to take some intellectual responsibility for researching the question and deciding on an approach – making those decisions for yourself is part of the process of the assignment. Where possible these very specific questions have been addressed at a broader level. If you have any further questions please discuss with your tutor and make use of the resources we have provided to help you with this assignment.

Sources to use in the assignment

1. What is the age range for articles that we can use?
 - a. As per the guidelines, all references must be published from 2010.
2. Can I use a different database to Findit@Flinders and Google Scholar?
 - a. For this assignment we have specified you must undertake your search using these databases and our week 3 lecture and tutorial materials support these databases only. Don't forget that you **MUST** attach your logic grid and search summary (template is provided in the assignment checklist) with your final assignment which will show your database searches.
3. Can I use systematic reviews in the assignment?
 - a. Yes, as discussed in the week 3 and week 4 lectures you can use systematic reviews and meta-analyses in your assignment as these are still considered research articles. Narrative literature reviews do not count as primary research articles so should not be used in the thematic analysis but can be used in the introduction/background.
4. Can you use the articles you find for your thematic analysis for the background/introduction?
 - a. Yes you can but just keep in mind that you should be using *primary sources*. In the background section you will probably want to report statistical information so we expect you to go direct to the original source of the information (e.g. the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australian Bureau of Statistics, World Health Organization). For example consider the following passage from a journal article by Phillips, McMichael and O'Keefe (2017): "*Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) pose a threat to population health and are the leading cause of mortality globally (Gouda, Richards, Beaglehole, Bonita, & Lopez, 2015). NCDs disproportionately affect poorer populations: over three quarters of the global burden of NCD deaths and the majority of premature deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries (WHO, 2013).*"
If you wanted to cite the information here that low and middle-income countries experience 75% of the disease burden from non-communicable diseases you would not cite Phillips, McMichael and O'Keefe because they have got this information from the World Health Organization. Therefore you should look up this reference in their reference list and go and access that source and read it for yourself and cite the original source directly – this is what we mean by using a *primary source*. Better yet – search for the original information you need directly as there may be more recent information available.
5. Can you use the articles from your background in the thematic analysis?
 - a. Only if they are primary research articles that contribute to answering your question. The background should really be about providing a broad overview of the issue so we'd expect in that section you will access epidemiological sources beyond the individual research articles.
6. Can I use narrative reviews in the introduction/background section?
 - a. Yes but see the responses to questions 5 and 6.
7. What is the minimum number of references?
 - a. Refer to the guidelines – minimum of three in the introduction/background PLUS minimum of eight peer-reviewed primary research articles in the thematic analysis section.
8. Do all articles need to be similar?
 - a. No but they all must be relevant and contribute to answering the question in some way and meet the guidelines for inclusion (primary research, published since 2010, peer-reviewed).
9. Do you recommend the use of the weekly readings?
 - a. Good question! The weekly reading list contains extensive resources that might be useful for your background sections so definitely see if there is anything there that you could use.

Formatting of the assignment

10. Are there rules about the font/size/spacing for the assignment?
 - a. There are no 'rules' about these but please ensure it is easy for your tutor to read. Using 11 or 12pt plain font (Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman are suitable choices) with 1.5 spacing is preferred.
11. Can I submit the assignment as a pdf document?
 - a. No. The dropbox is set-up to only accept word documents so ensure that it is in Word format before you attempt to submit.
12. Are headings compulsory?
 - a. Headings are recommended as this will guide the reader through the assignment. You can opt for very basic headings such as: introduction, thematic analysis, summary of findings, conclusion, or you could use more specific headings in your thematic analysis. Headings will count to the word count so don't make them too long.
13. Is the word count for each section strict?
 - a. The individual maximum/minimum word counts must be adhered to. Refer to the feedback sheet which includes adherence to these word counts as one measure of assessment. Assignments that do not meet the *overall word count* of 1500 words (+/- 10%) will be returned as per the Statement of Assessment Methods and will require resubmission and will be eligible for a maximum grade of 50%.

Assignment content

14. Can we have an example assignment?
 - a. No we do not have an example assignment for several reasons. Firstly the guidelines have slightly changed and we often find students get 'stuck' on following the format of a sample which can be problematic when the requirements have changed. Secondly – you have examples of literature reviews everywhere! The introduction of every journal article is like a mini literature review, if you do a search for literature review on Google Scholar or Findit@Flinders you will come up with many examples of published literature reviews.
15. What is the difference between the summary of findings and conclusion?
 - a. The summary of findings is a short paragraph specifically summarising the evidence from the 8+ research articles. What can you conclude about the quality of evidence overall? What recommendation could be made based on this evidence? The conclusion provides a summary of the *assignment* overall. So here you would briefly summarise the key aspects of the problem, the evidence that you found and answer the assignment question overall.
16. Can we use articles that use pilot studies or surveys?
 - a. You can use any type of research as long as it meets the criteria – peer-reviewed, primary research, published since 2010 and relates to answering your chosen question.
17. How detailed should the background be?
 - a. As detailed as you can be in 250 words maximum! The introduction and background need to introduce the reader to the issue, provide definitions for what the question contains and an overview of why this issue is a problem, who is affected, what are some of the consequences etc.
18. Does the research question need a conclusive answer?
 - a. It depends on what you find in the research. You might have a conclusive answer or an answer that isn't conclusive but you need to make some kind of recommendation based on the overall findings.

Literature searching

19. How many concept words should I have?
 - a. It depends on your question, some will only have 2 and others will have 3 or 4.
20. How can I get good search results?
 - a. Literature searching has been discussed extensively in the tutorials and the week 3 lecture and is covered in the HLTh1305/1306 libguide so there has been ample attention directed to guiding this. If you are still struggling there is a literature searching discussion forum on FLO or you can make a time to meet with a librarian to discuss your search.
21. How broad can the search terms be?
 - a. See above – we have provided ample instruction on searching. If you are still struggling you need to use the literature searching discussion forum or visit the library.

Thematic analysis questions

It is clear that many students are struggling with this component. All students are suggested to review the tutorial slides for week 5 (available on FLO), revisit the thematic analysis worksheet (in Assessment Exercise 3 folder under Assessment Resources on FLO) and review the following book chapters:

- McKendry, S. (2016). Taking a Critical Approach in Literature Reviews. Chapter 6 in *Critical Thinking Skills for Healthcare*. Oxon, UK: Routledge. Pages 74-86. (The whole book is available for pdf download through the library).
 - Aveyard, H. (2014). Why do a literature review in health and social care? Chapter 1 in *Doing a Literature Review in Health and Social Care: A practical guide* (3rd ed). Berkshire, UK: Open University Press. (Available online through the library).
 - Aveyard, H. (2014). How do I analyse my findings? Chapter 6 in *Doing a Literature Review in Health and Social Care: A practical guide* (3rd ed). Berkshire, UK: Open University Press. (Available online through the library).
 - Aveyard, H. (2014). How do I discuss my findings and make recommendations? Chapter 7 in *Doing a Literature Review in Health and Social Care: A practical guide* (3rd ed). Berkshire, UK: Open University Press. (Available online through the library).
22. What is a theme?
- a. For a refresher on thematic analysis refer to the thematic analysis worksheet on FLO (in Assessment Exercise 3 folder under Assessment Resources) and the week 5 tutorial slides. Note that all of these FAQs are grouped into themes!
23. Can the themes be the keywords from the search?
- a. It depends – read all the responses here about thematic analysis and review week 5 tutorial materials again which might make themes clearer. The key thing is the themes should be about the research findings – don't mix up info that should be in the background.
24. How many themes should I have?
- a. It depends on what you've found but 3-5 themes would be the ideal range. Any less than this and it's not really organised into themes, any more than this and it will get too 'bitsy' with none addressed in sufficient depth.
25. What is the difference between a thematic analysis and an essay?
- a. An essay is an entire body of work with an introduction, body and conclusion. A thematic analysis is one way of interpreting and presenting and summarising information according to common themes within it. In this assignment the thematic analysis is one component that is reporting the research findings.
26. How do I decide on themes for the thematic analysis/What should I include/What are the themes for X question?
- a. This is for you to decide – we cannot answer this as we have not read the body of evidence that you have gathered and it is a major part of the assessment for you to be able to decide this yourself. Remember that the themes should relate to the research *findings*. For example, if your assignment question was 'What are the key risk factors for thunderstorm asthma attacks?' a theme on 'outcomes of thunderstorm asthma attacks' would not be appropriate because it doesn't relate to the question. You might discuss outcomes of asthma attacks as part of the background on why it is an issue but outcomes aren't related to risk factors so wouldn't be a theme for that question.
For your themes consider things like populations, settings, types of interventions. For example if your question was 'How effective is exercise in managing the symptoms of depression?' some potential themes might be 'group exercise programs', 'home-based exercise programs', 'walking groups', 'women-only exercise programs', 'exercise combined with counselling' and then within those themes discuss the actual findings of the research. It really depends on the results that are reported in the articles but you want to ensure that you are discussing research findings that contribute to answering your question in your thematic analysis not content that belongs in your introduction/background.
27. How do I summarise 8 articles without it seeming messy?
- a. This is why you are organising it into themes – the themes should allow for a logical and clear approach to reporting the information.

28. How can we compare 8 articles in 1 paragraph?
 - a. Review the guidelines this is not what has been asked. You have minimum 700 words (realistically up to about 1000 words depending on how many words you use in the other sections which all have maximum word counts) to discuss the articles. The point of a literature review and thematic analysis is not to summarise or discuss each article separately but to appraise them as a whole and group the findings into themes.
29. How do you compare articles within each theme?
 - a. It's not about comparing individual articles it's about drawing the findings together. Review the tute materials from week 3 where literature reviews were discussed as well as week 5 discussing thematic analysis. Read the relevant chapters from the McKendry and Aveyard eBooks (refer to the Assignment Checklist for specific chapters).
30. In the thematic analysis should we include limitations under each theme or group them separately in the conclusion/summary?
 - a. Definitely no discussion of limitations for each theme. Discussing the quality/limitations of the overall body of research should be addressed briefly in the summary of findings.
31. How do you begin a paragraph in the thematic analysis?
 - a. There is no specific way to do this, write in full paragraph style and include sufficient information so that it is clear what you are discussing.
32. Should each article be used in multiple themes?
 - a. Not necessarily – there is no rule regarding this, just discuss the relevant parts of the findings where it fits best.

Questions about specific assignment questions

33. For the question on cruciate ligament injuries do I just focus on Anterior Cruciate Ligament injuries OR Posterior Cruciate Ligament Injuries or do I address both?
 - a. The question is clear that you need to focus on only one not both: What interventions are effective in preventing anterior OR posterior cruciate ligament injuries (choose one only) in athletes?
34. For the question on cruciate ligament injuries can it be related to a specific sport or just athletes in general?
 - a. Specific sports might constitute a theme in the analysis. Focusing the entire assignment on one sport isn't really answering the question at a broader level because the question isn't about preventing ACL injuries in AFL players for example.
35. How many interventions should be discussed?
 - a. It depends on what you have found in terms of the effectiveness aspect. Given you only need eight articles minimum, start with exploring what the research literature includes and if the question is asking what interventions are effective it's expected you would explore more than one.
36. Can I change the question to be more specific?
 - a. No – unless the question has a specific caveat on choosing one aspect you should explore the question broadly, you might explore specific population groups in the thematic analysis.
37. For question 2 about health and fitness apps does 'health' include diet?
 - a. Yes diet would be one aspect of health and fitness.

Assessment of the literature review

38. Can you read a draft of my assignment?
 - a. No. With 450 students in the topic we are not able to assess drafts. Please direct *specific* questions about the assignment to your tutor.
39. Do different/harder questions get marked differently?
 - a. No – all of the questions are considered equal for assessment purposes.
40. Can we have more concise marking criteria?
 - a. The feedback sheet outlines how your tutor will assess your assignment. Read this in conjunction with the guidelines and you should have a good sense of what is expected.
41. Does the number of articles used have an effect on the grade (e.g. if I use more than the minimum will I get a HD)?
 - a. The *minimum* number of articles for the thematic analysis is 8. This is the absolute minimum to meet the requirements. Using more than this won't necessarily equate to a higher grade – it depends on how relevant they are and how well they are integrated into the thematic analysis.

42. Will we get marked down if we use less than 8 sources?
- Refer to the assessment guidelines and feedback sheet – assignments that do not include 8 research articles will be deemed to not meet the evidence requirements which will impact the overall quality.
43. What does 'meaningful themes' mean in the assessment sheet?
- This means that the themes must be well considered and have meaning and relevance to the question and the evidence found.
44. If our concept/keyword searching is incorrect however our literature review answers the question do we lose marks?
- Refer to the feedback sheet – if your logic grid/search summary is incomplete or inadequate it will be marked as not met. This assignment is partially about the process you undertake which is why we ask you to submit the logic grid and search summary. We have provided extensive resources to support your searching so it is expected that you will do this accurately.

Referencing

45. Is in-text referencing compulsory and is it counted in the word count?
- Please refer to the guidelines. Yes in-text referencing using APA is compulsory throughout the assignment and in-text references are included in the word count. You must reference each time you use information/ideas/words that are not your own. The reference list is not included in the word count.
46. Do I need references in the summary of findings?
- Probably. If you are referring to specific findings or specific studies (even if referring to several at once) then you should cite the relevant articles at that point.

Other questions

47. Is it better to not have an opinion about the question?
- This is an evidence-based assignment, therefore your opinion should be based on the evidence.
48. How long will the assignment take?
- We have been scaffolding your learning for this assignment since week 3. It was expected that you would have started then.
49. Can we use images in the assignment?
- No it's not expected that students will include images/graphs/figures. Anything included will be counted in the word count and must be referenced appropriately.
50. When can the assignment be submitted?
- The dropbox was opened on 1st September so you can submit at any time. The due date/time is 8pm on Monday 17th September. Late penalties of 5% per day (or part thereof) apply after that time if you don't have an extension.
51. What lectures should I re-watch?
- You should definitely re-watch lecture 3 and the first 15 minutes of lecture 4 as these discuss types of research, hierarchy of evidence and literature searching. Beyond that it depends on which assignment question you have chosen.
52. What do we need to include in the attachment?
- You must include your logic grid and search summary – refer to page 3 of the assignment checklist document. You must complete and include that entire table.
53. What if I can't submit my assignment on-time?
- If you don't have an extension you will be penalised at 5% for every day (or part day) that it is late. Extensions are discussed in the Statement of Assessment Methods. Extensions *may* be granted where the student has:
 - Made a written request for an extension prior to the due date for the assessment item;
 - Included supporting information where relevant when requesting the extension.
 - Justified the request on the basis of unforeseen or exceptional circumstances that are reasonably likely to prevent substantial completion of the assessment by the specified due date.