Finding and evaluating literature
Academic writing
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What’s your motivation today?

Got lost searching for coffee?

I want to get an A on my thesis!

Not sure, really...

I want to learn!

My supervisor told me to

My friends were going and I didn’t want to be left out

Someone recommended this course
Today’s program

Search for literature
Evaluate sources
Refer to sources
Academic writing
Writing an assignment/a thesis

- Introduction
- Theory
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
What is a source?

- Books
- Scientific articles
- Newspapers
- Webpages
- Encyclopedias
- Phds, Master’s thesis
- Pictures
- Videos
- And so on
Why do we need sources?

- Acknowledge the work of others
- Get recognition of the research/work you have done
- Place your own ideas in a larger intellectual context
- Allow the reader to examine your use of sources
“If I have seen far, it is by standing on ye shoulders of giants.”

- Sir Isaac Newton, 1676
Finding GOOD literature
Why not just Google it?
Be critical

- Anyone can publish
- Quality
- Reliability
- Intention
- One-sided perspective
Choose your sources wisely

• In the beginning all you want to do is to get an overview of your field. Choose sources accordingly.
• As you get more specific, choose high quality sources that are very relevant to your topic of discussion.
Where to search?

- Oria
- Databases
- UiS Brage
- Browzine
- Google Scholar
BOOLEAN OPERATORS

AND OR NOT

FISH CHIPS
Tasks

At what Dewey number do you find this book in the library?

Which book is to the left of this book at the shelf in the library?
What is the 5 first words in this article?


• How did you locate the article?

Search in Scopus

• What is the H-index for Roger Flage?

• What is the H-index for Terje Aven?

• Why is it difficult to compare the H-index of Flage and Aven?
Referencing

Goal: Show the reader where you found information
When do we need to cite?

*When we use other people’s thoughts and ideas:*

- When we **quote**, i.e. use the exact words from a source.
- When we **paraphrase** – when we are restating an idea or text in our own words.
- When we use a complete work as a reference.
In-text citation
«If you incorporate ideas from books, articles or the web, you need to indicate they are others’ ideas» (Lipson, 2004, p. 8).

References

A complete reference

Journal Article with one author (APA 6th)

In-text citation

(Author, year, page)

Reference list

Author. (year). Title. Journal title in italics, volume(issue), pages. doi:
How to reference?

Find the article «The Call for a Shift from Risk to Resilience: What Does it Mean?” by Terje Aven.

What does the correct APA 6th reference to the first page of the article look like?
How to reference?

Journal Article with one author (APA 6th):

• In-text citation: (Terje Aven, 2019, p. 1196)

Reference Management Software
Plagiarism

If we **do not cite correctly**, we may be accused of **plagiarism** – taking credit for other’s words and ideas.

This can have serious consequences.
When do we not need to cite?

• When we use our own thoughts and ideas (but remember to cite yourself if you use previous work)
• When we use common knowledge
Academic writing
1. Structure (IMRaD)
2. Writing process/Timeline
3. Final suggestions

1. Structure (IMRaD)
IMRaD Format

- **Introduction**: What do you want to find out?
- **Theory**
- **Methods**: What did you do?
- **Results**: What did you find out?
- **Discussion**: What does it mean?
- **Conclusion**
Introduction

What do you want to find out?

Present existing research* (What conversation are you joining?)

Present the problem you will study

Indicate gaps in previous research

Present your research question/purpose statement (e.g., The purpose of this paper...)

Indicate the structure of your thesis (optional)
Introduction- Creating a Research Space (CARS)

Move 1: Establishing a research territory
- Show that your research area is important or relevant
- Introduce and review previous research

Move 2: Establishing a niche
- Indicate a gap in or extend knowledge of the previous research

Move 3: Occupying the niche
- Outline purposes or announce present research

What did you do?

Methods

Why? Explain why you chose the methods that you chose
What did you find out?

Describe what you found out

Present only the facts*

Tables

Figures

Results

Report results/findings that answer your research question and that you intend to discuss in the discussion section (avoid reporting other results)

*results & discussion can in some situations be combined
Discussion

What does it mean?

What is the significance of your research?

How do the results compare to other studies?

Limitations:
- How reliable and valid is your research?
- What could you have done differently?

Explain & interpret your results
“The results indicate…”

How do the results correspond to your hypothesis/research question?

Conclusion

Have you reached a conclusion?

No new ideas/arguments

Do you have suggestions for future research? Have you revealed new gaps?

Summary of most important points/findings
2. Writing process/ Timeline
From topic to final text

Planning

Production

Revision

Choose a topic

Find/read relevant literature

Thesis statement/research question

Outline/structure

Data collection & analysis

Write a first draft

Feedback

Edit

Proofread
From topic to research question

- Brainstorm
- Make a mind map
- Freewrite
- Devise a preliminary outline
Freewriting exercise: What is your claim?

1. Freewrite for 10 minutes on ‘the essence of my paper is…’

2. Boil the essence of your paper down to one sentence - either a statement or a question.

3. Based on this sentence, state the claim of your paper. To help you do this, ask yourself the following question: ‘If I were to hand in this paper tomorrow, what would my conclusion be?’

Using IMRaD to get started

**Introduction**
- What do you want to find out?
- What is your research question?

**Theory**
- What theory or theories will you draw on?

**Methods**
- What are you going to do to answer your research question?

**Results**
- What results do you expect?

**Discussion**
- What do you expect your conclusion will be?
How to keep writing?

- Postpone perfection. You can always rewrite!
- Divide your paper into smaller, more manageable parts.
- Make small goals!
- Make routines for writing (e.g., location, time of day)
- Reward yourself along the way
- Stop before you get stuck and write down suggestions and keywords for how you plan to continue
- Write down any thoughts and ideas you think of so you don’t lose them
- Write multiple parts at a time
- Write even though you don’t feel up to it, don’t wait for inspiration

Pomodoro technique
to structure your writing sessions

1. Make a task list
2. Set a timer for 25 minutes
3. Work until the timer rings
   (no checking messages/social media😉)
4. Take a short break (5 minutes)*
5. Cross out completed tasks

*Take a longer break after every 4th “pomodoro”
## Timeline 1

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<td>Collect data</td>
<td>Write draft for introduction and methods sections (remember references!)</td>
<td>Analyze data</td>
<td>Write draft for results and discussion sections (remember references!)</td>
<td>Revise</td>
<td>Proofread</td>
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- Week 39: Find & read literature
- Week 40: Course in EndNote/Zotero/LaTex?
- Week 41: Collect data
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- Week 43: Analyze data
- Week 44: Write draft for results and discussion sections (remember references!)
- Week 45: Revise
- Week 46: Proofread
- Week 47: Submit 😊
Timeline 2

Week:

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Review your timeline on a regular basis!

1. What have you completed?
2. What do you still need to do?
3. If you haven’t complete the scheduled tasks, what is the reason?
4. What can you improve?

3. Final suggestions
Academic language

- Precise!
- Clear and direct
- Concise sentences
- Avoid conversational language such as similes and metaphors
- Avoid contractions (e.g., use do not instead of don’t, it is instead of it’s, etc.)
Revision- one of the keys to a good paper

Levels of revision

I. Focus
What is my main argument/claim?
How can I improve the clarity of my argument/claim?

II. Arrangement of ideas (form)
Logical division between sections
Organization of paragraphs within each section
Overall cohesion

III. Expression of ideas (style)
Sentences, phrases, choice of words

IV. Mechanical correctness
Spelling and punctuation
Reference list, citations, footnotes
Formatting and layout

Common formatting requirements

● Times New Roman, font size 12
● 1.5 spaced
● Numbered pages
● Cover page
  Typically includes: university, faculty/institute, course name/code, semester & year, date, name(s)/candidate number(s), title of assignment/paper, number of words
● Table of contents page
● Headings and subheadings (but not too many!)
● Correct referencing (in-text and reference list)
Library classes & events

facebook.com/ubistavanger/
student.uis.no/library/classes/english/
https://student.uis.no/calendar/

Work smart - use the library! 😊
Services & useful websites

**Study Lab**
student.uis.no/library/studylab/

**Learning Support Center**
student.uis.no/library/lsc/

**Subject Page for TN**
libguides.uis.no/TN

**Brage (theses & dissertations)**
brage.bibsys.no

**Citation Compass**
kildekompasset.no/english

**Search and Write**
sokogskriv.no/en/

**Viko**
ntnu.edu/viko/

**Academic Writing Podcasts**
akademiskskriving.no/english/
Relevant software

- EndNote X9
- Zotero
- LaTeX
- Microsoft Word
Good luck!