NURSG 504
Philosophical and Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice

How to Ace Your Nursing Theory Paper!

by Victoria Brahe, PhD, MSN, RN

Objectives

At the end of this program, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate skills in constructing a paper in APA format
- Create headings based on the assignment guidelines
- Compose content based on the assignment guidelines
- Propose how you could apply your chosen nursing theory to your scenario

Assignment Instructions and Rubric

- Every assignment includes instructions and an associated rubric identifying point distribution.

- For this paper, the instructions indicate the major headings that must be included in your paper. This provides an outline for your paper, keeping it organized and ensuring you do not miss content.

- If required headings are not listed for an assignment, use the assignment rubric guidelines for content.

- Rightly, if you include information not listed on the rubric, you get no points for that content. Likewise, if content from the rubric is missing, you receive no points for that section of the rubric.

Grand, Middle Range, or Evidence-Based Practice Theory Paper Due Sunday Week of 12 at 11:59 p.m.

Describe a complex clinical case (or the case you discussed in week 03) to which you will apply and analyze a grand **or** middle-range nursing theory or EBP practice framework. Select a theory you have not explored previously in this course. Write this portion of the paper in academic style, using primary sources/references and correct APA formatting (7th edition).

Expectation: Approximately 6-10 pages with a minimum of 5 references.

Please include the following required elements for this paper (see week 12 rubric):

- An introductory paragraph with a clearly identifiable purpose statement for the paper.

Required Headings:

- Complex Case in Clinical Practice (Short one paragraph recap of case narrative)
- Grand Nursing Theory OR Middle Range Theory Description
- Application of Nursing Theory to Case -evaluate and apply all concepts to the case
- Conclusion
- References

Grand Nursing Theory OR Middle Range Theory Description (describe the theory concepts in detail)	95 pts Full Marks	0 pts No Marks	95 pts
Application of Nursing Theory to Case -evaluate and apply all concepts to the case	95 pts Full Marks	0 pts No Marks	95 pts
Conclusion	15 pts Full Marks	0 pts No Marks	15 pts
Minimum of 5 scholarly references	15 pts Full Marks	0 pts No Marks	15 pts

File Name

Jstudent_NursingTheoryPaper_3.1.2021

Title Page

Put Name of Theorist or Theory Name

Jane Student

School of Nursing, Saint Xavier University

NURSG 504: Philosophical and Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice

Victoria Brahe, PhD, MSN, RN

Month day, year

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Put Name of Theorist or Theory Name

Begin this page with the title of your paper on the first line. It should be identical to your title on the title page. The introduction in an APA paper does not have a heading that says, Introduction. In your introduction (about a paragraph) you want to entice readers to continue reading and let them know what to expect from reading your paper. At the end of the paragraph, say: *The purpose of this paper is to*… To learn more about writing a great introduction, see Writing Effective Purpose Statements and Introductions.

Complex Case in Practice

Think of APA headings like an outline that help organize your paper and promote readability. Start with a major topic which is a Level 1 heading. You base the content of the heading on your assignment guidelines. Notice this heading is title case (i.e., upper and lowercase letters). You should have a minimum of four sentences per paragraph.

First Sub-Topic Name for First Major Topic Goes Here Like This

This is a Level 2 heading. Like all headings, notice this too is in title case. Use at least two sub-topic headings within a section or do not include them.

Second Sub-Topic Name for First Major Topic Goes Here Like This

Make this another Level 2 heading.

First Sub-Topic for the Second Sub-Topic Goes Here Like This

If there is a sub-topic for a sub-topic, use a Level 3 heading. Notice it looks just like a Level 2 heading except it italicized.

Second Sub-Topic for the Second Sub-Topic Goes Here Like This

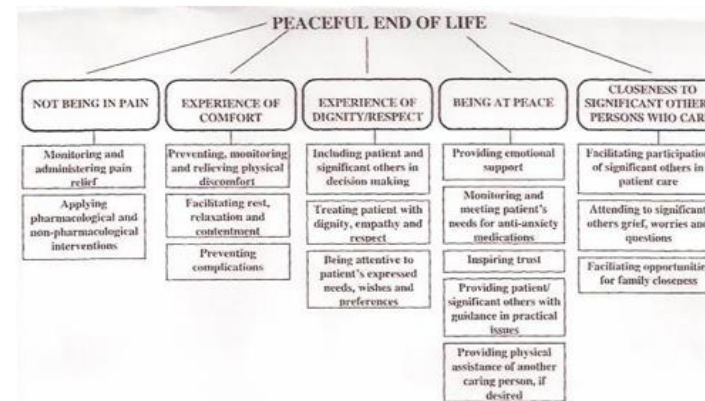Again, use at least two sub-topic headings within a section or do not include them.

Nursing Theory

Next Page

A second major topic has the same level of importance as the first major topic, so also has a Level 1 heading. Three levels of headings provide the structure needed for most papers, but there are five levels of headings for longer and more complex papers. Find the format for those headings here or Table 2.3 in the APA manual.

As you explain your chosen theory, I strongly encourage you to use the model from the theorist(s) as a guide include it in your paper. For example, look at this visual representation from the peaceful end of life theory (Ruland & Moore, 1998) in Figure 1:

Figure 1

Relationship between concepts of the peaceful end of life theory.

See how you could use those elements as talking points? What you don't want to do is only focus on overarching metaparadigm concepts. That is because every nursing theory includes those concepts but really it is the model that sets them apart. Hint: I'm also showing you here how to correctly site a figure in APA format.

Application of Theory

Last Page

Conclusion

All formal papers require a conclusion. You do not need to say "in conclusion" or "in summary" because your heading says that. A short paragraph will do. To learn more about writing a great conclusion, see Conclusions.

Important:

- *Do not change the format on this template* and double-space throughout the paper—no extra spaces.
- The guidelines say this paper should be about 6-10 pages (1800-3000 words). I do not deduct points if you go over the page count, though quantity never takes the place of quality.

Reference Page

References

Ruland, C. M., & Moore, S. M. (1998). Theory construction based on standards of care: A proposed theory of the peaceful end of life. *Nursing Outlook, 46*(4), 169-175.

This page is already formatted for hanging indents—just keep typing and the indent happens automatically. Be certain to apply prior feedback (I'll look) so you don't lose the same APA points.

Notice references are double-spaced like the rest of your paper without extra spaces in between. For mor on references, see here.

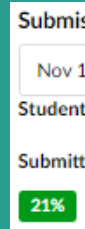For every reference, you need an in-text citation to go with it. For more on in-text citations, see here.

Do's, Don'ts, & Strategies for Success

Don't	Do
Rely on your memory for APA format rules or make things up	• Use the APA template provided and duplicate the format exactly • Apply prior feedback on reference and in-text citation format or look things up
• Spend too much time telling me what you already know—the *diary* part of your paper • Spend too much time describing the theory—the *book report* part of your paper.	• Demonstrate your learning by *applying* the theory concepts to your scenario
Include the *metaparadigm concepts* (nursing, health, patient, environment)	• Include a graphic of the model • Base application of the theory on the concepts in the model
Use layman sources	• Use scholarly literature only • Include a nursing journal article(s) that applies to your chosen theory

Turnitin Originality Software

- First, review the content under *Academic Integrity* in my *Course Expectations* document (see *Instructor Overview—Read and Reply* forum) for more information and resources on what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, and how to interpret your originality report.

- When you submit your paper to the assignment dropbox, it is automatically submitted to Turnitin

- Once evaluated, this icon appears next to your file

- Regardless of the color of the icon or percentage, you need to open the originality report to identify if the matches are significant or not. You do not need to worry about short matches, headings, common phrases, or references. You also do not need to paraphrase concepts specifically used by the theorist. For example, one of the caritas processes: *Practicing loving-kindness and equanimity within context of caring consciousness* (Watson, 2010).

- What you do need to paraphrase are long strings of matching words. Paraphrasing is more than changing a few words however. See *Examples of Paraphrasing Without Plagiarizing*.

Thank you for your attendance!

What questions do you have?