**Written Assignment 3:** *Critical Evaluation of a Research Study*

2300 ***words***

*Weighting 50* ***%***

***Due Date****: 17:00hrs,* 22 May, 2017

The aim of this assignment is to critically evaluate a journal article. This will provide you with the skills and knowledge to be able to evaluate the quality and relevance of research so that you can make informed decisions about applying it to practice.

This assignment addresses the following course learning outcome/s:

1. Examine the contribution of research to evidence-based practice;
2. Evaluate the credibility of the information provided by research studies;
3. Demonstrate understanding of the major elements of the research process that underpin translation to practice.

**Task Description (Instructions):**

For this task you need to write a **2300 word structured report**. In your report you will **critically evaluate** a journal article. You must choose to evaluate a Randomised Controlled Trial **OR** a Qualitative Study (see below).

For this essay you should use the **‘critical evaluation tool template’** **(available in the Assessment 3 Folder in the L@G site)** to guide what information to include in each section. The template is your guide only and not for submission.

In your essay you must use the following headings:

* Introduction (200 words) 1 paragraph
* Title and Abstract (100 words) 1 paragraph
* Structuring the Study (300 words) 1 - 2 paragraphs
* The sample (150 words) 1 paragraphs
* Data Collection (300 words) 2 - 3 paragraphs
* Data Analysis (300) words 1 paragraph
* Findings (300) words 1 - 2 paragraphs
* Conclusion (150) words 1 paragraph
* Relevance to nursing practice/case study (500 words) 2 - 3 paragraphs.
* You need to include a **reference list** **(not included in word count).**

# **Case Studies – You need to choose ONE**

**CHOICE 1: Randomised Controlled Trial, Case Study**

Journal Article:

[Bugden, S., Shean, K., Scott, M., Mihala, G., Clark, S., Johnstone, C., … Rickard, C. (2016). Skin Glue Reduces the Failure Rate of Emergency Department-Inserted Peripheral Intravenous Catheters: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, *68*(2), 196–201.](http://experts.griffith.edu.au/individual/n74a45e6b302c1e29a865c8c24d89d0ed) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.annemergmed.2015.11.026>

**What the study is about:**

Peripheral intravenous catheters are the most commonly used medical invasive device in hospitals today and are frequently initiated in the emergency department. Peripheral intravenous catheter failure frequently occurs after 48 hours post insertion, suggesting that improvements in securement can be targeted at this timeframe. A novel approach for improved peripheral intravenous catheter fixation is the use of medical-grade skin glue (cyanoacrylate) at the insertion site. Skin glue has been reported to be effective for securing central venous, epidural, and peripheral arterial catheters, with improved fixation compared with standard polyurethane dressings.

**CHOICE 2: Qualitative Study, Case Study**

Journal article:

Bernoth, M., Dietsch, E., & Davies, C. (2013). Two dead frankfurts and a blob of sauce: [The serendipity of receiving nutrition and hydration in Australian residential aged care.](https://blackboard.qut.edu.au/bbcswebdav/pid-6123599-dt-content-rid-5633154_1/xid-5633154_1) *Collegian, 21*, 171-177. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/>

**What the study is about:**

Social relationships have been repeatedly identified as essential to nursing home resident quality of life, life meaning and satisfaction, and psychological wellbeing. Articulating the views of residents, and the work residents engage in to develop relationships with both peers and staff, is necessary to facilitate identification of opportunities for targeted interventions that promote, support, and sustain relationships in practice.

# **Other elements:**

* Always refer to the [Griffith Health Writing and Referencing Guide](https://sites.google.com/a/griffith.edu.au/griffith-health-writing-and-referencing-guide/essay-writing/Specific-essay-writing-tasks/critical-evaluation-tasks).
* Ensure that you use scholarly literature**1**(digitised readings, research articles, relevant Government reports and text books) that have been published within the last 6 years.
* Use academic language**2** throughout.
* State your word count at the end of each section (*excluding your reference list*)
* Word limits for assessment items need to be strictly adhered to. The word limit for an assessment item includes in text citations, tables and quotations. The word limit DOES NOT include the reference list. Please note the marker will cease marking your submitted work once they have reached the allocated word limit.
* Submit your assignment via Turnitin as per the instructions on your Learning@Griffith course site. [Submit in the ‘assessment’ tab].

1 Scholarly or peer-reviewed journal articles are written by scholars or professionals who are experts in their fields, as opposed to literature such as magazine articles, which reflect the tastes of the general public and are often meant as entertainment.

2 Everyday language is predominantly subjective. It is mainly used to express opinions based on personal preference or belief rather than evidence. Written academic English is formal. It avoids colloquialisms and slang, which may be subject to local and social variations. Formal language is more precise and stable, and therefore more suitable for the expression of complex ideas and the development of reasoned argumentation.

**Formatting and Submission**

**Please submit as ONE document including (in this order):**

1. Assignment Cover sheets (Read carefully and complete all sections especially the *Academic Integrity Declaration* on the cover sheet). The health writing and referencing guide has coversheets attached to already formatted blank documents. Please refer to that section of the Health writing and referencing guide which outlines specified health group formatting guidelines for assignments at <https://sites.google.com/a/griffith.edu.au/griffith-health-writing-and-referencing-guide/Assignment-Presentation-Formatting-Guidelines>

2. Assignment Title Page with correct details

3. Your essay, appropriately formatted (font, line spacing, margins, page numbers, student number etc.)

4. Your essay must conform to APA 6th edition style for in text references and the final reference list. References are to be presented on a separate page. This is additional to the word limit. Refer to the [Health writing and referencing guide](https://sites.google.com/a/griffith.edu.au/griffith-health-writing-and-referencing-guide/) link: <https://sites.google.com/a/griffith.edu.au/griffith-health-writing-and-referencing-guide/apa-referencing-guidelines>

5. Check and save a copy of your work

6. Submit your completed essay via the appropriate Turnitin submission point on the course site as per the instructions on your Learning@Griffith course site. [See the ‘Assessment’ tab].