Title of the Paper in Full Goes Here

Student Name Here

Title of the Paper

Do not add any extra spaces between your heading and your text (check *Spacing* under *Format*, *Paragraph* in your word processor, and make sure that it’s set to 0”)—just double space as usual, indent your work a full ½ inch (preferably using the tab button), and start typing. Your introduction should receive no specific heading because it is assumed that your first section is your introduction section.

In general, the introduction should state the thesis and the purpose for writing the paper. A thesis statement is something that lets your reader know how you synthesized the literature into a treatise that can advance a new point of view. This statement will then provide your reader with a lens for understanding the forthcoming research you’ve decided to present in the body of your essay (after all, each piece of literature should support and be made applicable to this thesis statement).

Once you have established your thesis, you can then begin constructing your introduction. An easy template is as follows:

1. Start with what has been said/done regarding your topic of interest.

2. Explain the problem with what has been said or done.

3. Offer your solution, your thesis statement (one that can be supported by the literature).

4. Explain how your thesis brings about social change.

**Background of Studies**

In this section discuss the background information from the studies. Remember to make sure your first sentence in each paragraph both transitions from your previous paragraph and summarizes the main point in your paragraph. Stick to one topic per paragraph, and when you see yourself drifting to another idea, make sure you break into a new paragraph. Try to avoid long paragraphs to avoid losing your reader and to hold his or her attention--it is much better to have many shorter paragraphs than few long ones. Think: new idea, new paragraph.

**Articles Support of Nursing Practice Issue**

In this section discuss how the article support nursing practice issue. Give a strong argument on how each article supports and answers the PICOT question. Discuss how the interventions and comparison groups in the articles compare to those in the PICOT statement.

**Methods**

Here is another Level 1 heading. Again, the topic sentence of this section should explain how this is related or a result of what has been discussed in the previous section.

**Quantitative Study**

The Level 2 heading here implies that this is a subsection of the previous section. Using headings are a great way to organize your paper and increase its readability, so be sure to review heading rules on APA 3.02 and 3.03 to format them correctly. For shorter papers, using one or two levels is all that is needed. You would use Level 1 (centered, bold font with both uppercase and lowercase) and Level 2 (left aligned, bold, both uppercase and lowercase).

State the methods of the two articles you are comparing and describe how they are different.

Consider the methods you identified in your chosen articles and state one benefit and one limitation of each method.

**Results of Studies**

Do the same here as was done above. Introduce the level one heading by saying this section will discuss the quantitative results.

APA can seem a bit tricky to master, but it is fairly straightforward once you get the hang of it. There are also plenty of sources to help you—do not be afraid to ask!

Summarize the key findings of each study in one or two comprehensive paragraphs. What are the implications of the two studies you chose in nursing practice? Include numbers and statistical information.

**Outcomes Comparison**

What are the anticipated outcomes for your PICOT question? How do the outcomes of your chosen articles compare to your anticipated outcomes?

**Conclusion**

Your conclusion section should recap the major points you have made in your work. However, perhaps more importantly, it should also interpret what you have written and what it means in the bigger picture. In your concluding remarks, think big! Some questions to ask yourself include: What do you want to happen with the information you have provided? What do you want to change? What is your ultimate goal in using this information? What would it mean if the suggestions in your paper were taken and used? Remember to follow the rubric!

**References**

Alexander, G., & Bonaparte, N. (2008). My way or the highway that I built. *Ancient Dictators*, *25*(7), 14-31. doi:10.8220/CTCE.52.1.23-91

Babar, E. (2007). The art of being a French elephant. *Adventurous Cartoon Animals,19*, 4319-4392. Retrieved from http://www.elephants104.ace.org