

Foregrounding information literacy in order to prepare international students for unfamiliar assessment tasks in Australia

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FOIL Tutorials - Focus On Individual Learning (Phase 2 of QUEST Project)

The FOIL tutorials were a series of nine one-hour supplementary tutorials provided for twenty-five international nursing students enrolled in Nursing 1 at ACU in first semester 2005.

This was a collaborative project between staff members from the School of Nursing, the Raheen Library and the Academic Skills Unit at the Melbourne Campus of ACU and was supported by an ACU Teaching Development Grant.

Teaching was done jointly with each project member taking the lead as and when required.

FOIL Tutorial Content

Invitations were extended to students during the first week of lectures, consent forms were distributed and project aims outlined, session times organised and students notified.

An orientation session was held in the second week where administrative matters were finalised, introductions to staff and students were made, tutorial outlines provided and FOIL strategies booklets distributed.

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| Week 1 | Examination and discussion of assessment requirements for Nursing 1 to be covered during tutorials – essays , posters, case studies and examinations.

Descriptive essay 1
Topic analysis – direction words, limiting words, key concept
introduce Web-ezy tutorials through library
Brainstorming, what it is, how to do it – tree diagram (handout)
group brainstorming activity
Hierarchy of text |
| Week 2 | Descriptive essay 2
Review of brainstorming activity
Discussion of importance of keywords
for development of structure
for researching the literature through database searching
keyword development activity |

Week 3	<p>Descriptive essay 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researching the topic for source material identifying appropriate resources simple and advanced searching strategies reading abstracts extending searches from key references ‘what to save’ ‘what to use’ ‘how to decide’
Week 4	<p>Descriptive essay 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting to write Putting ideas on paper – examination of student work Sentence building including in-text citing Writing an introduction – group activity
Week 5	<p>Descriptive essay 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay structure funnelling approach - introduction, body and conclusion APA referencing (handout and direction to online resource)
Week 6	<p>Posters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination of completed student posters Content, layout, marking criteria
Week 7	<p>Case Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination of sample case study scenarios analysis of text, analysis of questions methods of answering – dot points, short answers
Week 8	<p>Exam revision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination of sample exam questions discussion of marking criteria discussion of answering methods – how detailed to be activity – writing short answers (group activity) test taking tips (handout)
Week 9	<p>Exam revision/evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguishing terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> objective/subjective primary/secondary/tertiary levels of health care primary/secondary sources of information or data Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> completion of questionnaire