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MPH Theory & Practice Seminar Suggested Enhancements for 2003

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MPH Theory and Practice Seminar
Jon's Suggested Enhancements for 2003
Forwarded 8/2/03

Here are my notes from our meeting on how to upgrade the syllabus, esp the assignment, from our meetings late last year following completion of the seminar:

PROJECT PRESENTATION AND PAPER:

FORMAT:
Every paper and presentation should be structured using the following major headings commonly employed in professional and academic communications:

Background (or Objective)
Methods
Findings
Conclusion

At mid-semester each group should turn in a two page outline using these four headings, a full description of their literature search (see below) and 90% + of their references.

METHODS:

Students need to provide a detailed description of their literature search(es) including what databases they used, for what years, and their search strategies. Most databases offer a feature of allowing you to view a summary of your search. For example, in PubMed, one simply can click on "History" to view the summary of the entire search strategy. Students can attach these printouts as Appendices to the written paper.

REFERENCES

References should be complete and accurate. References should include more "classic" works but generally contain the best, most recent evidence. References should contain minimal errors and include accurate personal communications (email, phone, interview) and full website information. Be sure you understand the difference between an "Op. Cit." and an "Ibid." reference.

Students should employ either the Vancouver Style or the American Psychological Association Style consistently throughout their group paper for citing their references.

Vancouver Style:
See recent issues of either the American Journal of Public Health or JAMA for examples. Or, review the Instructions for Authors for either journal

APA Style:
See the Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association.
UNM Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center Reference/Reserve Collection WZ 345 P976 2001

Presentations should include the more relevant references.

Everyone, please suggest changes but this is what I had in my notes from our discussions and meetings. Thanks.

Jon