

## Example of good academic writing: level 5

### This extract is based on a critique of a research article.

Verdi (2007) focuses on the views of the nurses when they care for older people with dementia in an acute care setting. The researcher conducted interviews with experienced nurses in a small scale study. The nurses found it challenging to meet the needs of this group of patients, mostly because of their other duties in the ward. The conclusion was that the environment was not suitable for these patients.

The critiquing framework for qualitative research developed by Donmar (2014) was used to critique the sample in this study. According to Houseman (2014), being able to critically analyse the sample can assist in establishing how this adds to the quality and strengths of the study. The author clearly identifies their sample as a purposive sample of seven female nurses. Pridi and Koosters (2014) describe purposive sampling as a non-probability sampling which means there is no random sampling. Khan (2010) suggests that using purposive sampling ensures selection of those that have experience and knowledge in the phenomenon. Although the sample can be subject to bias as it relies on the researcher's judgement (Puccini, 2015), Wagner (2014) suggests there is a higher chance of bias in the selection only if the population is more diverse.

The researcher chose these participants because they met the expectations of the research. Rossini (2013) explains that to be eligible for research, the participants have to meet specific criteria and Jones et al. (2007) suggest participants should be chosen because of their experience. In this study, the participants were all registered general nurses with different levels of education and experience of nursing older people with dementia. Therefore, it is clear that participants had the experience in the subject area and were appropriate for the study.

According to the critiquing framework, sample sizes in qualitative research are usually small. Lambert (2013) explains that there is no agreed sample size for qualitative research as there are no rules on how small or large a sample should be. It is more important to obtain good quality information to ensure meaningful analysis and Dully et al (2014) suggest that having a small but appropriately chosen sample can lead to collection of information that is relevant to the study. In this study, the researcher used a small sample size of seven

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**Comment [1]:** Research clearly outlined and cited

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**Comment [2]:** Good that the method and sample are noted

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**Comment [3]:** Good that the findings of the study are noted

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**Comment [4]:** Justification for this aspect of this paper

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**Comment [5]:** Evidence supplied to support the topic under discussion

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**Comment [6]:** Good points made on bias and supported by evidence

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**Comment [7]:** Good evidence to link into the specific example from the research.

nurses. Bryant (2013) states that having a large sample size in qualitative research is often not necessary and it does not show quality or importance.

**This is an example of good academic writing at Level 5. The introduction clearly maps out the content of the essay and is followed by a clear and informative first paragraph.**

This essay will elaborate on chlamydia as a health issue and discuss the health promotion activity recently conducted in an attempt to raise awareness. The essay will include an assessment of health needs, based on the epidemiology and demographics of chlamydia. This will lead to the selection of a specific target group, explaining why health promotion is needed for this group. Also, it will discuss essential factors, relevant policies, and Bradshaw's model of needs (1972). It will explain why the educational approach was selected and it will discuss the strengths and limitations of this approach. Finally, it will evaluate the resources used, the data collected and will consider possible improvements to the health promotion activity.

Chlamydia remains the most common sexually transmitted infection in the western world (Hardy, 2015). It is passed on through unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex, infecting the epithelium tissue that lines the urinary and reproductive tracts (Philips & Jones, 2014). Philips and Jones (2014) further explain that chlamydia can cause symptoms such as discharge and pyrexia. In addition, the long term health consequences are significant and include infertility, ectopic pregnancies and inflammation of the epididymis and testes (Cayse & Musil, 2016). This shows the importance of health promotion in preventing this condition.

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**Comment [8]:** An example from the study is used, therefore showing the application.

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**Comment [9]:** It is good to identify the details of the evidence.

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**Comment [10]:** This is a good introduction that maps out clearly the content of the essay. Also, there is a good use of signposting words and phrases to guide the reader.

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**Comment [11]:** A very good first paragraph summarising briefly the significance of chlamydia in terms of prevalence, symptoms and long term health consequences. A variety of sources has been used.

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**Comment [12]:** A good concluding sentence to the paragraph.