**Assessment Advice**

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| Assessment number | Assessment type | Due date | Worth | Word count |
| 1 | Literature review | Sunday week 6 | 20% | 2000  \*10% over or under is NOT accepted |

Literature review

What is it?

A literature review examines and critically evaluates the most relevant and recent scholarly research on a particular topic.

How do I write it?

You are being asked to choose a specific type of aesthetic modification (e.g. breast augmentation, liposuction, etc.) and review the existing literature for that topic.

The literature review should be as comprehensive as possible and should distinguish clearly between key academic journals and what might be more correctly classified as industry or professional publications.

You should also draw conclusions about the extent and number of articles in both academic and industry journals or publications. How much research has been performed so far? Where has it mainly been published? What is lacking?

When reviewing literature, you need to summarise the research findings so far, compare and contrast them, and evaluate the quality of the research by identifying the strengths and weaknesses. Use these questions as a guide:

·        What was the purpose of each study?

·        What methods were used to carry out the research?

·        What were the main findings of each study?

·        What conclusions did the researchers come to? Do they agree or disagree with each other?

·        What were the strengths of these findings? What makes them important and valuable?

·        What were the limitations (weaknesses) of the studies?

The purposes of a literature review are to a) evaluate the quality of the research that has been carried out to date and b) identify gaps in the research – what still needs to be investigated (in more detail?)

At this level, try not to simply describe. You need to evaluate. For example, it is not enough to merely explain the possible complications of the procedure. You need to tell us why something is positive or negative, based on what it can lead to. To be more analytical and critical, each time you make a point, ask yourself: Why is this important? What does this lead to? What are the consequences if this isn’t done correctly?

Literature reviews need to be clear and easy to read, so they can be organised into sections with headings.

Step 1: Highlight the key words in the assessment question.

Step 2: Once you have done your reading and research, divide 2000 words into how many paragraphs/main points you will need (approx. 10 paragraphs, so 8 main points plus introduction and conclusion).

Assessment 1: Literature review

Literature reviews allow students to practise key skills necessary in the identification of secondary research. In this assignment students are asked to research the academic literature associated with a specific type of aesthetic modification (e.g. breast augmentation, liposuction, etc.) The literature review should be as comprehensive as possible and should distinguish clearly between key academic journals and what might be more correctly classified as industry or professional publications. Students should also seek to draw conclusions about the extent and number of articles in both academic and industry journals or publications. The literature review should be approximately 2000 words.

