Writing, Referencing and Plagiarism in Honours and Final Year Projects:

How are they different to previous study?

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Writing in Honours and Final Year Projects

Previous study:
- Shorter written assignments
- Planning important
- List of topics given by lecturer
- Critical analysis in writing and reading important
- Important to develop a coherent argument

Honours/Final Year project
- Depending on your program structure, 8,000 to 15,000 words
- Planning very important:
  - Chapters / Sections & sub-sections
- YOU have to decide on your research
- Critical analysis in writing and reading very important.
- Very important to develop a sustained, coherent argument as well as answer the research question or solve the research problem.
Referencing in Honours and Final Year Projects

Previous study:
- You may only have only referenced because you were told to.
- Referencing was mainly used to back up arguments.
- Refs generally only useful for the particular assignment.
- It’s ethical!

Honours/Final Year project:
- As researchers, you’ll be in a better position to really understand the need to reference.
- Referencing will be also be used - construct debate in the field - situate your research in the field.
- Understanding the key players and their research is useful if you go on to Masters/PhD.
- It’s ethical!
Plagiarism in Honours and Final Year Projects

- Ethical issues around doing and reporting research. Plagiarism viewed as extremely serious within this ethical research framework.

- Research-level writing increases opportunity for accidental plagiarism:
  - copious amounts of literature to analyse and synthesise
  - the need to maintain your ‘voice’ as researcher means more paraphrasing and summarising of key ideas than quoting
  - adding to the knowledge in the literature, so you need to make it very clear what’s yours and what’s theirs.

Cartoon source: Filly Sunnies,