

Title of Literature Review

Follow your style guide for details on how to properly format your title page, including running head, page numbers, and author information.

Date
Name of Instructor
Course Name and Code

Introduction

Things to include:

- Brief context to introduce topic
- Scope/framework/method to describe the sources used
- Research question/problem statement
- Thesis
- Overview of structure
- Concluding sentence

Questions to consider when writing the introduction:

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| Background | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is known about your topic? ▪ What do readers need to know about your topic in order to understand the review? ▪ Are there any important external factors or confounding variables that shape, influence, or affect your topic or the literature? |
| Scope/framework/ method | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What do your sources have in common? ▪ What were selection criteria for the sources (e.g., publication date, locations of study, approach of study)? ▪ Do your studies use a consistent method? ▪ Do your studies use a consistent theoretical framework? |
| Research question/ problem statement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What do you want to find out? ▪ How do other scholars address this topic? ▪ What is unknown about your topic? ▪ What is an area of concern? ▪ What can be improved upon? ▪ Why is this problem important? ▪ Why was there a shift in scholarly approach? |

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| Thesis | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What connects these sources?▪ What conversation exists between the sources?▪ What does the approach to this topic tell us about the field and the topic itself?▪ Do you answer the research question?▪ Have you evaluated the body of literature?▪ Have you taken a position using your analysis of the literature? |
| Overview of structure/ outline | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How is your literature review organized?▪ What is a brief description of each section?▪ Is the order you provide in your introduction the same as the order you use throughout your literature review? |
| Concluding sentence | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What is a statement that wraps up your introduction while emphasizing your main point? |

Body

Things to include:

Analysis and synthesis:

- Logical presentation of synthesis and analysis of sources
- Integrating and explaining evidence

Presentation of Material

- Clear transitions between subtopics
- Effective method of organization (e.g., chronological, thematic, debate)

Writing organization

- Headings for each subtopic
- Clear topic sentences
- Effective paragraphing

Questions to consider:

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| Analysis and synthesis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How does the evidence fit together? ▪ Is the evidence best integrated through paraphrasing, quoting, or summarizing? ▪ What do related sources combine to tell you? ▪ What controversies or discrepancies exist and why? ▪ Why is this source significant? ▪ Does your Matrix reveal any points of intersection or divergence? ▪ Does your Matrix show any similarities or differences? ▪ Are you evaluating and critiquing instead of just describing? ▪ Have I supported my main argument? ▪ So what? ▪ Have you sequenced your argument in a way that allows your reader to follow your logic? |
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| Presentation of material | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Do your sources conform to a chronological, thematic, or debate pattern?▪ Do your ideas build on one another?▪ Do you explain how you move from one subtopic to another?▪ Are you signaling to the reader how your ideas relate and fit together?▪ Do you effectively sequence and place your ideas? |
| Writing organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Can your material be broken into broad subtopics that you can use as headings?▪ Do your headings accurately reflect its associated content?▪ Is the topic of each paragraph introduced in its first sentence?▪ Have you conceptually connected your paragraphs in the final sentence of one paragraph or the introductory sentence of the following paragraph?▪ Does each paragraph focus on only one idea?▪ Can complex ideas be broken into smaller paragraphs that are manageable for readers?▪ Does each paragraph have a clear topic, some evidence, and some analysis/synthesis? |

Conclusion

Things to Include:

- Brief summary of findings
- Limitations
- Future directions
- Implications of thesis, as derived from research questions and hypotheses
- Final analysis

Questions to consider:

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| Brief summary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What major themes emerged from your Matrix? ▪ What major points of divergence emerged from your Matrix? ▪ What does your reader need to be reminded of in order to understand your analysis? |
| Limitations and future directions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are the shortcomings of the studies? ▪ Is there a discernable gap in research coverage? ▪ Is there anything that is not being considered or examined? ▪ Can these limitations be used to guide new research? ▪ What can be done in future research to improve upon what has already been done? |
| Implications of thesis and final analysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Taken together, what do the studies tell you? ▪ How does your literature review contribute to your understanding of your topic? ▪ How can scholars in your field use your analysis? |

References

Follow your citation style guide for instructions on how to format and arrange your source.