

Introduction

Background:

Discuss what is already known about your topic and what readers need to know in order to understand your literature review.

Scope, Method, or Framework:

Explain your selection criteria and similarities between your sources. Be sure to mention any consistent methods, theoretical frameworks, or approaches.

Research Question or Problem Statement:

Explain the problem you are addressing and why it is important. Try to write your research question as a statement.

Thesis:

Answer your research question by addressing the connections between your sources, the current state of knowledge in the field, or consistent approaches to your topic. Try using words like 'through,' 'by,' 'because,' or 'although' to help you directly and critically answer your research question.

Overview of Structure:

Describe your literature review's organization, including major sections. Make sure this discussion matches the order you use throughout your review.

Concluding Sentence:

Emphasize your main point without entirely restating it.

Body

Structure:

Break your material into subtopics, which you can then use as headings. Make sure your paragraphs work together within each section and that they concentrate on only one point each. Use strong and specific topic sentence to stay focused.

Organization of Material:

Arrange your material chronologically, thematically, along lines of debate. Use transitional phrases and words to indicate how your ideas fit together, and make sure your points are placed logically within your overall structure.

Analysis and Synthesis:

Integrate your evidence throughout your literature review. Explain how and why it supports your thesis, and account for any discrepancies. Be sure to directly explain the significance of your evidence and analysis.

Conclusion

Brief Summary:

Provide a brief overview of the major points of similarity and divergence discussed in your literature review. Use concise writing strategies and choose your content selectively.

Limitations and Future Directions:

Identify limitations in the studies or gaps in the body of knowledge. Use this to comment on research that needs to be conducted.

Implications and Final Analysis:

Take a step back and think about what your research and analysis combines to tell you about the body of knowledge in your field. This will be your final analysis. Also explain how your literature review contributes to this discussion and how it can be useful to other researchers.