

HS 210: Introduction to Critical Inquiry Literature Review Assignment

The final assignment for HS 210 is a comprehensive literature review of at least 6 sources presented in an integrative and cohesive fashion following APA format. A literature review is a coherent, succinct synthesis of the literature you reviewed to answer your research question or problem under study. A literature review includes an explanation of background information and the research question that grew from that information. It also includes a summary of existing, credible, scientific literature on the topic, whether your research question identifies a “gap” in the existing literature, and recommendations for future research or areas of inquiry. The purpose of the literature review is to know what others have discovered before you, begin an investigation of your own, and present logical, justified, and novel ideas of how to move your research topic forward. You must securely ground your research question in what is already known about your topic in order to establish a foundation and recommendations for future research.

The purpose of this assignment is to fortify your abilities to research a health topic of interest as evidenced by (1) identifying and formulating a specific research question that defines what you’d like to learn, (2) know how to search and locate scientific literature (i.e. peer reviewed journal articles) using scientific databases, (3) analyze information found in journal articles, (4) synthesize new knowledge into a comprehensive format, and (5) establish logical and novel ideas for potential future research inquiries.

Assignment Details:

For this assignment you are asked to complete a literature review on a health topic of your choice. You are asked to locate at minimum 6 peer-reviewed journal articles on your topic (5 quantitative, qualitative, and/or mixed methods research AND 1 literature review article) and write a 5 page (not including title and reference pages) double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point font literature review on the articles you’ve selected. All references will be between 2011-2021. No more than 2 direct quotes from your articles can be included in this literature review. **Paper must be submitted as .doc/.docx or .pdf file.**

Midway through the course, students will complete a **Topic Proposal and Table of Research**, which will serve as the building blocks for the final literature review submission. This assignment is to provide students the opportunity to practice organizing a literature search and receive feedback about their planned literature review prior to the final submission.

Because feedback will be given on the Topic Proposal and Table of Research, complete drafts or written sections of this assignment will not be reviewed prior to submission. However specific, content or clarification questions are welcome. Contact your instructor in a timely manner if you have any questions related to this assignment. **There is also a discussion thread on Blackboard for any literature review related questions.** This is where you can post any general questions related to the assignment.

Steps to Complete Your Literature Review:

1. Choose a health topic that you are interested in and gather background information on the topic.
2. Formulate a research question that specifically describes what you would like to know about your health topic.
3. Search scientific databases to locate journals, books and search other resources to learn more about your topic and answer your research question.
4. Read the abstracts and articles you locate to determine if they correspond well to your topic and help

answer your research question.

5. Select and finalize at least 6 peer-reviewed journal articles, save them for easy retrieval and access, and list them according to APA format. (Using RefWorks is recommended.)
6. Read, organize, and evaluate the credibility and usefulness of the articles selected, using provided Summary Chart Template. [*Topic Proposal and Table of Research assignment will be turned in at this step.*]
7. Sort and classify articles' aims and results/findings in a logical, succinct, and meaningful way, always considering your original topic and research question as you distinguish your 3 major themes.
8. Write your literature review according to APA format.

Contents of Your Literature Review:

1. Title page according to APA format
2. Abstract according to APA guidelines (max 200 words)
3. Introduction (about 1 page)
 - a. Introduces and provides an overview of your health topic to the reader, explains the significance and importance of the topic, and presents the research question that will be answered in the literature review
 - b. Explains the methods used in your literature search (keywords and MeSH terms used, scientific databases used, years searched, how many articles you found, how many you reviewed, how you narrowed down the articles to these 6, and how you sorted the articles into common themes based on findings/results)
4. Body (about 3 pages)
 - a. Before you begin this section, sort your articles into different themes based on the articles' aim/purpose and results/findings. After you sort your articles, it is important to give your sorted groups a descriptive name. These names will appear as headings and when appropriate, sub-headings throughout the body of your paper. The body of your literature review will include:
 - i. Theme 1 - Several paragraphs that describe the first theme that you identified, and will summarize, critically evaluate, compare, contrast and/or connect the articles you've selected to illustrate and support this theme.
 - ii. Theme 2 - Several paragraphs that describe the second theme that you identified, and will summarize, critically evaluate, compare, contrast and/or connect the articles you've selected to illustrate and support this theme.
 - iii. Theme 3 - Several paragraphs that describe the third theme that you identified, and will summarize, critically evaluate, compare, contrast and/or connect the articles you've selected to illustrate and support this theme.
5. Conclusion (about 1 page)
 - a. This is the last section of your literature review in which you briefly summarize the main results/findings from the articles that you reviewed, clearly answer your research question or explain how and why it remains unanswered, answer the "so what" question by presenting the value and significance of your literature review's results/findings, and suggest new areas of inquiry and your recommendations to further expand research on your topic area. Limitations to your literature review and overall limitations to the articles you selected are explained.
6. References (include this heading as called for by APA guidelines)
 - a. This a listing of all references that you referred to throughout the body of your paper. The reference list must follow APA format.