

Topic:

WRITING A LITERATURE REVIEW ASSIGNMENT

A literature review assignment is a broad-ranging, critical view of the literature on a particular topic. It is similar to the literature review of a thesis, with one major difference: the main aim of a literature review assignment is to summarise and critically evaluate the literature to establish current knowledge of a topic. The thesis literature review also needs to do this, but it also needs to identify a gap in the literature that will be filled by the writer's research.

Although a literature review is structured like an essay and is often a similar length, there are differences: in an essay, you argue a point of view, whereas in a literature review assignment, you critically analyse the literature in order to understand what is known about a topic.

Questions are often similar to this:

Critically review the literature surrounding an area of contention in nursing.

What should I include in my literature review assignment?

Your literature review assignment should include the following:

- The main ideas, theories and concepts related to your topic.
- Areas of agreement and disagreement related to your topic
- Any problems or gaps in the literature related to your topic.

Here are some things to think about:

- What are some common themes?
- Compare and contrast the various findings, arguments, theories, and methodologies in the literature.
- What do the authors agree or disagree about? What are the major areas of disagreement, controversy, or debate?
- Critique the literature; synthesise and evaluate the research, don't just describe or report it. Look for any assumptions or bias in the literature.

What is 'the literature'?

The literature refers to previous work or sources of information relevant to your topic. There are three sources of materials:

- **Primary sources:** First-hand reports of original studies, mainly found in academic journal articles.
- **Secondary sources:** Critical evaluations and syntheses of original studies.
- **Tertiary sources:** Information and ideas often put together from primary or secondary sources, such as text books, encyclopaedias, etc.

You should mainly use primary sources and perhaps the occasional secondary source.

Should I use quotes or paraphrases?

Quotations are usually used only for:

- definitions of technical terms or key words and concepts
- particularly significant phrasing
- maintaining the writer's specific intention.

Paraphrases are the main method of citing authors. The advantages of paraphrasing are:

- showing that you understand and can interpret the original material
- allowing you to maintain your own voice.

What reporting verbs should I use?

It is important that you are accurate in the way you report and interpret the work of others. When selecting reporting verbs to incorporate the work of other writers, you need to reflect the intention of the original work. You should also show your opinion of that work and how it relates to your discussion of the issues.

For example:

Lewis (2013) explains the link between ...

Myers and Miller (2011) have conceded that their findings should not be ...

The findings have been criticised as lacking validity because ... (see Lee, Jones, & Elwood, 2013).

Hadan (2014) criticises previous researchers for ...

Several research teams singled out the importance of ... (Browne, 2013; Trang, 2012; McKay, 2014).

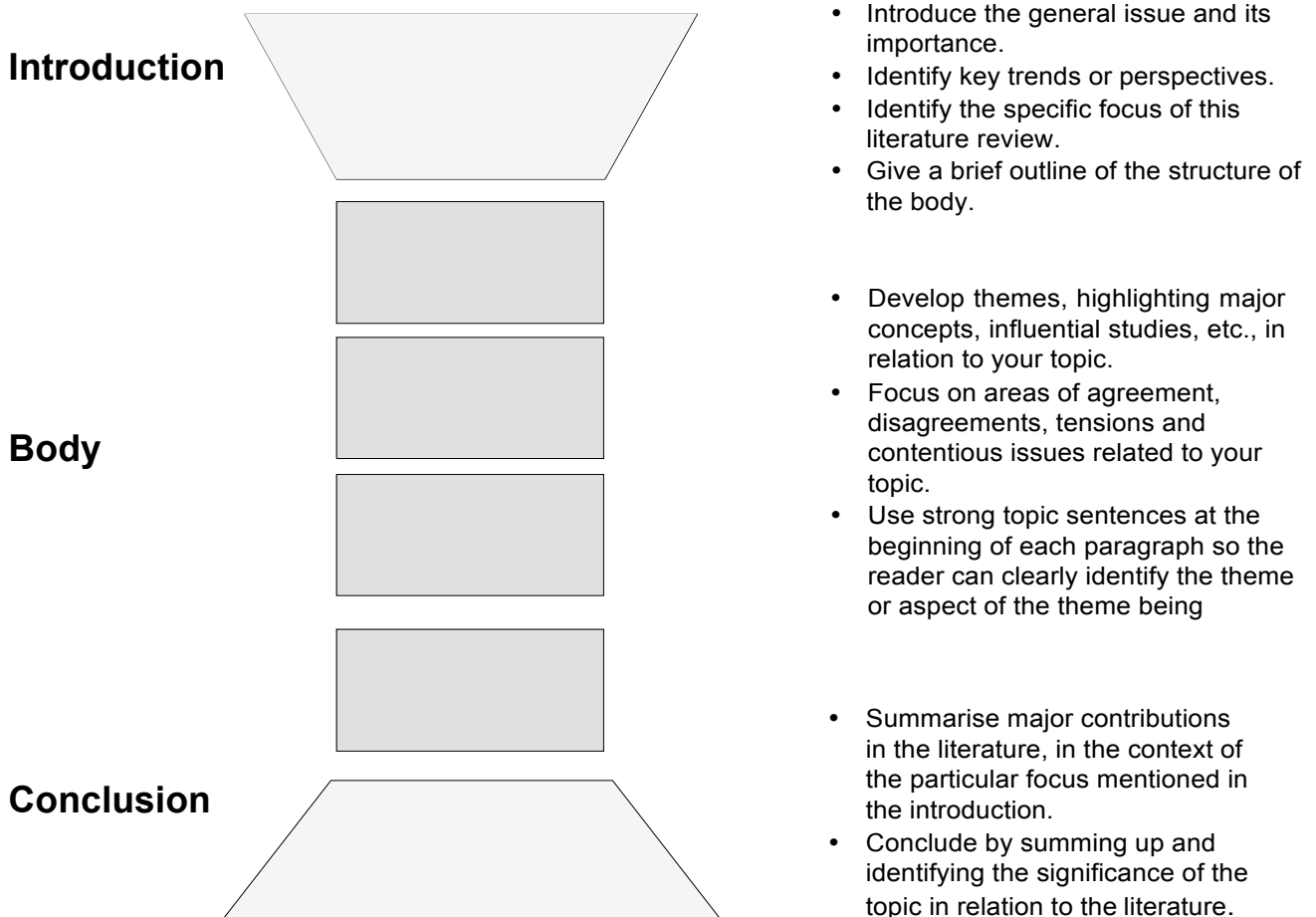
These examples use APA referencing style.

How should I structure my literature review assignment?

Your literature review should have a clearly organised structure with an introduction and conclusion.

Note that your literature review is **not** a summary of studies in your field presented one by one, paragraph by paragraph. Instead, you need to structure the body of your literature review in themes or ideas, synthesising information from various sources.

Here is a typical way of structuring a literature review assignment:



- This assignment is an individual work. You are asked to write a critical literature review for the research title you have chosen earlier following all guidelines (please see the attachment) and directions given throughout this course.
- Please consider that the word count is **1500 words excluding references**. You may support the answer with references (if required) and reliable data.

Note:

- In this literature review, six hypotheses must be used with brief details for each hypothesis. (Alternative hypotheses should be used)
- The literature review must include research model based on the selected hypotheses.
- Recent sources & references must be used. (Maximum three years ago)
- concepts should include the definition for all independent and dependent variable
- Minimum of 7 recent references should be used.
- a copy from the resources which have been used should be provided with highlight for the parts have been used on each source.
- a minimum of 1 independent variable and 1 dependent variable with 3 sub-independent variables should be used on this literature review.
- the report should meet all the requirements on the literature review checklist

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This assignment is related to following LOs:

- Explain all types & fields of researches.
- Collect data through different methods.

- Conduct a research in business.
- Know how to write the final report and how to present it .
- Recognize the research importance.
- Explain the difference between the questionnaire and the interview when conducting the research.

COURSEWORK GUIDELINES

1. Students must adhere to the word limit provided (**plus or minus 10%**) **excluding calculations, tables/figures, references, quotations and appendices.** Quotations and appendices should be kept to a minimum and be of direct relevance to the content of your work. A word count must be stated at the end of your work.
2. The Harvard system of referencing must be used, including a bibliography.
3. 7 references should be included.
4. Where appropriate, a contents page, a list of tables/figures and a list of abbreviations should precede your work.
5. Your assignment must be word processed and a plain, readable font should be used, preferably Arial size 12.
6. Your group number should appear at the top of each page as a header.
7. The relevant course and year must be included as a “footer” on each page. (course name: Business Research)
8. All tables and figures must be correctly numbered & labelled. Tables, Calculations, Appendices, Referencing & Teamwork elements are **not** included in word-count.
9. All pages should be numbered.
10. You should ensure that you regularly backup your work so that if computer problems are experienced, you will be able to complete the assignment within the set deadline.
11. The hard-copy of your assignment should be submitted with a single corner staple.
12. Plagiarised and unreferenced work will be awarded a mark of zero.

Notes:

Topic:

SECTION A: SELF ASSESSMENT (TO BE COMPLETED)

In relation to each of the set assessment criteria, please identify the areas in which you feel you have strengths and those in which you need to improve. Provide evidence to support your self-assessment with reference to the content of your assignment.

STRENGTHS	AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

literature review checklist

LITERATURE REVIEW CHECKLIST		
First category: Coverage		
1	Justified criteria exist for the inclusion and exclusion of literature from the review.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Is the audience convinced about the adequacy of search strategy and literature coverage?</i>	
2	A critical examination of the state of the field exists.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Has a constructive argument been presented throughout the text? Is the research question evident and articulated based on the current knowledge? Are different perspectives considered and contrasted?</i>	
3	The topic or problem is clearly placed in the context of the broader scholarly literature.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Is the selected literature related to the research topic? Does it provide a new perspective? Has direct or indirect referencing been used adequately?</i>	
4	The LR is critically placed in the historical context of the field.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Has a critical evaluation of the historical progress in the field been presented? Is a critical timeline presented?</i>	
5	Ambiguities in definitions are considered and resolved.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Are distinct definitions described according to the scope of LR?</i>	
6	Important variables and phenomena relevant to the topic are articulated.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Is the LR articulated in a manner relevant to other sections of dissertation/thesis? Are different aspects considered and synthesized?</i>	
7	A synthesized new perspective on the literature has been established.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Is it possible to identify the student's own academic voice?</i>	
8	The main methodologies and research techniques that have been used in the field are identified, and their advantages and disadvantages are discussed.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Are the benefits and limitations of previous studies considered according to their methods? Is the student's chosen methodology grounded and supported by others' works?</i>	
9	Ideas and theories in the field are related to research methodologies.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Are previous findings related to the methods applied? Are the interpretations supported by the analyzed literature, considering the methodologies applied?</i>	
10	The scholarly significance of the research problem is rationalized.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Are the academic paradigms considered? Are new advances proposed, based on current gaps? Are personal citations judiciously included?</i>	
11	The practical significance of the research problem is rationalized.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Do links exist between theory and practice? Are realistic interpretations of previous studies provided? Does an honest judgement of the real life applications of academic achievements exist?</i>	
12	The LR was written with a coherent, clear structure that supported the review.	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>SQ: Is the text coherent? Does it present a logical sequence, articulating paragraphs, subsections and sections that are related to each other? Is the language precise and concise? Is the writing style standardized?</i>	