

Literature Review Assignment

To prepare you for writing the larger report for this class, you'll need to do some research. You have identified a problem/topic/issue of interest; you have created and developed an annotated bibliography. This portion of the assignment will require that you write a literature review. A lit review gives an overview of previous research on a given topic and it should critically evaluate and compare published material.

Purpose: The purpose of the literature review is to show your audience that you have studied and reviewed the existing scholarship related to a particular subject or question in your field. It's not a description or summary but rather a critical evaluation that demonstrates insight of the current or prior conversation surrounding your chose topic.

Audience: This assignment should be directed at your scholarly peers, and you may assume that they have only a casual familiarity with your topic or issue.

Content/Subject: The topic/problem/issue you identified in your proposal should be the basis and should guide your literature review. The literature review should show the background and development existing about your topic. Your job is to evaluate what it all means. Your literature is directly related to the clearly stated position of your research proposal and contains the following parts:

1. Introduction – states the general topic or issue that you have previously identified as your focus for research; identifies trends relevant to your topic, the specific focus of the literature review and a brief outline of what is to follow in the body.
2. Body – Presents the information from your sources. This goes beyond what you did for your annotated bibliography, but your annotated bibliography can definitely inform or form the basis of what you write in the body of your literature review. You should provide a summary of each article as well as identify strengths and weaknesses, or limitations of the study that is the basis of the article. Identify the main ideas or theories related to your topic; areas of agreement or disagreement related to your topic or problems/gaps in the literature related to your topic. You might find yourself asking / identifying common themes in the articles you've selected, comparing/contrasting different view points, arguments, theories, etc. Your literature review will come from scholarly, academic (peer-reviewed) journal articles/databases.
3. Conclusion – summary of your main points that focuses mostly on your position toward your chosen topic.