

Literature Review Project

ENG 453

Dr. Witte

WHAT IS A LITERATURE REVIEW?

A literature review combines information from several different scholarly sources to give readers a sense of the current conversation about a topic in a particular field. Literature reviews can be part of a longer research report or stand-alone documents. The purpose of a literature review is (1) to show that you, as a scholar and researcher, are aware of research and discussion about your topic that has already taken place and (2) to show the reader how all the different pieces fit together by highlighting the similarities and differences between the sources you review. A stand-alone literature review generally also provides an assessment or evaluation of the sources at the end and makes a claim why interpreting the sources in a certain way or taking a particular side or approach is most useful at the present time or for a particular field.

THE ASSIGNMENT

You need to identify a topic related to writing, written communication, or written use of language in your field. Your job is to figure out and present how your field stands on this particular topic, at this particular time, by determining and discussing what the relevant positions on the topic are. Your review, as a stand-alone document, should also reach a conclusion at the end about which point of view is most useful or valid for your field at this time and explain why you've reached that conclusion.

You need to select a variety of sources, both in type and subject matter. You will need to provide background information on the issue you choose, as well as current research or discussion. This means you may need to research in places you haven't before and that you may need to use inter-library loan to get the books or articles that you need.

As with your Article Critiques, you want to look for a topic that might help you with the research project you're designing and with your research report.

FORMAT

Your review must be organized topically, meaning you must synthesize your sources, rather than discussing each one individually. Synthesis requires finding the similarities and differences between sources and highlighting where sources share perspectives and where those perspectives diverge. Once you have discussed the research, you will conclude with your assessment/evaluation.

You should also rely almost exclusively on summary or paraphrase rather than direct quotes. Direct quotes are appropriate for definitions of key terms or if an article responds directly to another article you are discussing. But quoting should be kept to a minimum.

Your review should contain at least 8 scholarly (peer-reviewed) sources from at least 3 different publications (i.e. you can't choose 8 articles from the same journal) and be 3-4 pages double-spaced.

Sources should be cited in AMA, Chicago, APA or MLA. The Works Cited page does not count in the page requirement.

GETTING STARTED

Choosing a good issue to research is crucial to success on this assignment. Here are some questions to ask to help you choose an issue.

- How is writing used in my field or in particular jobs in my field?
- What activities are completed in my field using writing?
- Where is writing or the written word used in my field in unique or unexpected ways?
- Where is writing or the written word used in my field in ways that might be overlooked?

Let me know if you are having trouble deciding what to focus on. You need to choose an issue that is small/narrow enough to research successfully, but also one on which there has been published discussion.

IMPORATANT DATES

- Tuesday 10/24 Project due to Moodle

	Content & Purpose	Organization	Presentation & Design	Requirements
An A Review (90-100 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly identifies the issue you are presenting Consistently provides sufficient detail to understand the perspectives of the cited sources Relies primarily on paraphrase and summary to present information or ideas from sources Consistently synthesizes sources throughout the paper, showing the similarities and differences between the sources Evaluates the various perspectives and makes a claim about which is best/most useful for your field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a clear introductory paragraph that identifies the primary topic and briefly identifies the various perspectives or subtopics for the paper Is clearly organized by topic Consistently presents information in the order a reader would need it to understand your topic Has a clear conclusion that emphasizes your evaluation of the presented perspectives and makes a clear recommendation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently integrates sources using signal phrases Correctly cites all sources in-text Cites all sources correctly on the Works Cited page Has no noticeable errors in grammar or spelling Has correctly formatted headers, headings and titles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is at least 3-4 pages, double spaced Uses at least 8 scholarly sources from at least 3 different publications
A B Review (80-89 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly identifies the issue you are presenting Mostly consistently provides sufficient detail to understand the perspectives of the cited sources with a few minor lapses Mostly relies primarily on paraphrase and summary to present information or ideas from sources with only a few spots that are too heavily quoted Mostly consistently synthesizes sources throughout the paper, showing the similarities and differences between the sources, with a few spots that rely too heavily on one source Mostly evaluates the various perspectives and makes a claim about which is best/most useful for your field, but either the evaluation or the claim is unclear in a few spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a mostly clear introductory paragraph that identifies the primary topic and identifies the various perspectives or subtopics for the paper, but spends too much time on the subtopics or omits a few topics discussed in the paper Is mostly clearly organized by topic with a few minor lapses Consistently presents information in the order a reader would need it to understand your topic with only a few minor lapses Has a clear conclusion that mostly emphasizes your evaluation of the presented perspectives and makes a recommendation, but wanders a little or does not make a fully clear assessment or recommendation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly consistently integrates sources using signal phrases with only a few lapses Mostly correctly cites all sources in-text with only a few minor issues Mostly cites all sources correctly on the Works Cited page with only a few minor issues Has a few minor noticeable errors in grammar or spelling Has mostly correctly formatted headers, headings and titles with only a few lapses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is at least 3-4 pages, double spaced Uses at least 8 scholarly sources from at least 3 different publications

	Content & Purpose	Organization	Presentation & Design	Requirements
A C Review (70-79 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the issue you are presenting but the issue is difficult to understand Generally consistently provides sufficient detail to understand the perspectives of the cited sources with some minor or a few major lapses Generally relies primarily on paraphrase and summary to present information or ideas from sources with some spots that are too heavily quoted Generally consistently synthesizes sources throughout the paper, showing the similarities and differences between the sources, with some spots that rely too heavily on one source Generally evaluates the various perspectives and makes a claim about which is best/most useful for your field, but either the evaluation or the claim is unclear in some spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has an introductory paragraph that identifies the primary topic and identifies a few of the various perspectives or subtopics for the paper, but spends too much time on the subtopics or omits some topics discussed in the paper Is generally organized by topic but lapses into focusing on single sources in some spots Generally presents information in the order a reader would need it to understand your topic with some minor lapses Has a conclusion that generally emphasizes your evaluation of the presented perspectives and makes a recommendation, but does not make a fully clear assessment or recommendation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally integrates sources using signal phrases with some lapses Generally correctly cites all sources in-text with only some minor or a few major issues Generally cites all sources correctly on the Works Cited page with only some minor or a few major issues Has some minor and/or a few major noticeable errors in grammar or spelling Has generally correctly formatted headers, headings and titles with some lapses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is at least 3-4 pages, double spaced Uses at least 8 scholarly sources from at least 3 different publications

	Content & Purpose	Organization	Presentation & Design	Requirements
A D Review (60-69 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discusses a topic, but the specific issue you are discussing is difficult to identify • Somewhat consistently provides sufficient detail to understand the perspectives of the cited sources with many minor or some major lapses • Somewhat relies on paraphrase and summary to present information or ideas from sources with many spots that are too heavily quoted • Somewhat consistently synthesizes sources throughout the paper, showing the similarities and differences between the sources, with many spots that rely too heavily on one source • Somewhat evaluates the various perspectives and makes a claim about which is best/most useful for your field, but either the evaluation or the claim is mostly unclear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an introductory paragraph that identifies the primary topic and identifies a few of the various perspectives or subtopics for the paper, but spends too much time on the subtopics or omits some topics discussed in the paper • Is generally organized by topic but lapses into focusing on single sources in some spots • Somewhat presents information in the order a reader would need it to understand your topic with many minor and some major lapses • Has a conclusion that discusses your topic, but fails to make an evaluation or recommendation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat integrates sources using signal phrases with many lapses • Somewhat correctly cites all sources in-text with many minor or some major issues • Generally cites all sources correctly on the Works Cited page with many minor or some major issues • Has many minor and/or some major noticeable errors in grammar or spelling • Has generally incorrectly formatted headers, headings and titles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not at least 3-4 pages, double spaced • Does not use at least 8 scholarly sources OR does not use sources from at least 3 different publications
An F Review (Less than 60 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discusses a topic, but fails to identify a specific issue • Consistently fails to provide sufficient detail to understand the perspectives of the cited sources • Fails to use paraphrase and summary to present information or ideas from sources • Fails to synthesize sources throughout the paper by showing the similarities and differences between the sources • Fails to evaluate the various perspectives and makes a claim about which is best/most useful for your field or fails to make a recommendation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an introductory paragraph that fails to identify the primary topic and/or the various perspectives or subtopics for the paper • Is not organized by topic but by source • Minimally or never presents information in the order a reader would need it to understand your topic • Has a conclusion that discusses your topic, but fails to make an evaluation or recommendation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimally or never integrates sources using signal phrases • Fails to correctly cite sources in-text • Fails to cite sources correctly on the Works Cited page • Has numerous minor and major noticeable errors in grammar or spelling • Has incorrectly formatted headers, headings and titles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not at least 3-4 pages, double spaced • Does not use at least 8 scholarly sources OR does not use sources from at least 3 different publications