

Portfolio Component #1

Scholarly Conversation Literature Review Project

ENG 220

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 a 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.

THE ASSIGNMENT

You need to identify a topic that is currently of interest to people in your field of study or professional field. The topic should be something that people in your field are currently researching, reporting on, or investigating. For example, a student in health sciences might investigate the use of robotics in surgery, alternatives to opiates for pain relief or the use of 3D printing technology in healthcare. Or a student in business might investigate alternative currencies like Bitcoin, the use of social media data for marketing, or green industries. Students in computer science or information fields might investigate the use of artificial intelligence (AI), net neutrality, or adaptive technologies.

Your job is to figure out and present the conversation that is taking place about 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 the direction the research into this topic is heading or needs to go.

CONTENT

Your 3-4 page review needs to contain:

- A description of the scholarly community that is interested in this particular topic
- An explanation of why this topic is relevant to that community
- Information from at least 6 scholarly/academic sources
- In-text citations from the sources you are reviewing.
 - 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.
- Information from a variety of sources, both in type and subject matter.
 - You will need to provide background information on the topic you choose, as well as current research or discussion.

Remember that the topic you choose for this review will determine the topic of your Research Portfolio, so take some time to think about a topic and choose carefully.

ORGANIZATION

Your review should include:

- An introduction that identifies the scholarly community and conversation discussed in the review
- A guiding thesis that indicates the topics that will be addressed in the review
- Sections organized by topic
 - 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.
- A conclusion that indicates where the research into this topic is headed next and what the gaps in the research are (i.e. what we don't know yet and still need to research)

FORMAT

All essays in this class will be in APA format. APA format requires

- A title page
- A header with the a shortened version (50 characters or less) of the paper title in all capital letters on the top left of each page
- The page number on the top right of each page
- An abstract
- In-text citations (any time you use sources)
- A references page (any time you use sources)

APA Elements Required for this Paper	APA Elements Not Required for this Paper
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title page• Header• Page Numbers• In-text citations• References Page	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abstract

Help with APA format can be found here: <http://guides.franklin.edu/APA/overview>. There is a YouTube video at the bottom that will walk you through formatting the title page and following pages, including the References page.

PORTFOLIO

This is the first component of your Research Portfolio and will help readers understand the topic of your portfolio and the research that has already been done on your topic.