STANDARD TEMPLATE FOR CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW  
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Official Benchmark Model for Postgraduate Research in Education

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**Course: Research Methods in Education MARCH 2024**

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**SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR THE LITERATURE REVIEW SECTION**

The suggested format for Chapter 2: Literature Review:

**Definition:** A literature review is an objective, critical summary of published research literature relevant to a topic under consideration for research. Its purpose is to create familiarity with current thinking and research on a particular topic, and may justify future research into a previously overlooked or understudied area. There are many ways to organize the evaluation of the sources. **Chronological and thematic approaches** are each useful example. Each work should be critically summarized and evaluated for its **premise**, **methodology**, and **conclusion**. It is as important to address inconsistencies, omissions, and errors, as it is to identify accuracy, depth, and relevance.

A typical literature review consists of the following components:

1. **Introduction:**

* + A concise **definition of a topic** under consideration (this may be a descriptive or argumentative thesis, or proposal), as well as the **scope** of the related literature being investigated. (Example: If the topic under consideration is ‘women’s wartime diaries’, the scope of the review may be limited to published or unpublished works, works in English, works from a particular location, time period, or conflict, etc.)
  + The introduction should also note intentional **exclusions**. (Example: *“This review will not explore the diaries of adolescent girls.”*)
  + Another purpose of the introduction is to state the **general findings** of the review (what do *most* of the sources conclude), and comment on the **availability** of sources in the subject area.

1. **Historical Literature Review:**

2.1 History of Focus area

2.2 Recent issues Background Research

2.3 Development of focus area

1. **Theoretical Review & Framework**

3.1 History of a theory/ Model/ Framework

3.2 Explanations of the Theory

3.3 Theoretical Development (trends, models, frameworks)

3.4 Theoretical Literature Matrix/ Table

3.5 Summary of Theoretical Review Prior Research

1. **Empirical Review**

4.1 Definition & Literature Review of each Variable/ Factors/ Issues

4.1.2 Variable/ Factor/ Issue A

Dimensions A1, A2

4.1.3 Variable/ F./ I. B

4.1.4 Variable/ F./ I. C

4.1.5 Variable/ F/I. X Prior Research 4.1.6 Variable/ F./ I. Y

4.2 Critical Literature Review (reviewing critically previous studies)

4.5.1 Justifying Relationship (via literature support) between A & X

4.5.2 Justifying Relationship (via literature support) between B & X

4.5.3 Justifying Relationship (via literature support) between C & X

4.5.4 Justifying Relationship (via literature support) between X & Y

4.3 Empirical Literature Matrix/ Table

4.4 Summary of Empirical Review

1. **Current Research: Creating a Research Gap for your Research/ Purpose of doing this Research**

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**5.1 Objectives/ Hypothesis**

**Current Research**

**5.2 Conceptual Framework/ Analytical Framework**

1. **Summary of the Chapter**

* + The conclusion **summarizes the key findings** of the review in general terms. Notable commonalities between works, whether favourable or not, may be included here.
  + This section is the reviewer’s opportunity to **justify a research proposal**. Therefore, the idea should be clearly re-stated and supported according to the findings of the review.

**References**

* + As well as accurate in-text citations, a literature review must contain **complete and correct citations for every source.**

**NOTES:**

1) This is just a general guideline to understanding the concept of writing a Literature Review. Nevertheless,

please do not follow blindly. The presentation of the Literature Review may vary from research to research.

2) Estimating the Conceptual Framework consists of Variable A, B, C, and D as Independent Variables, X as

a Mediating Variable and Y and the Dependent Variable.

3) This outline has been presented assuming Variable A has 4 dimensions, Variable B has 3 dimensions,

Variable C & D have 2 dimensions, Mediating Variable X has 2 dimensions and Dependent Variable Y has

2 Dimensions. Kindly take note that some variables may not have dimensions. However, relationships

between variables and dimensions must be justified in this chapter.

**LITERATURE REVIEW STEPS:**

A literature review compiles and evaluates the research available on a certain topic or issue that you are researching and writing about. Because lit review formats vary greatly, be sure to read your professor’s instructions *first* and defer to them. A typical writing process for a literature review follows these steps:



Define Topic

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What are you looking to explore?

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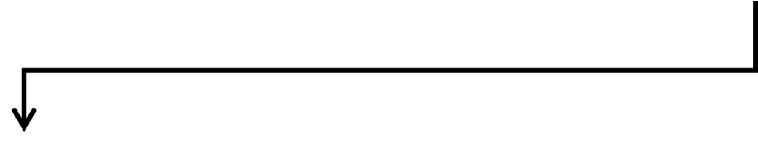
Example:

*: The impact of service*

*-*

*learning curricula on undergraduate*

*university students.*



Research Question\*

•

Write a specific question to guide

your research.

•

Example:

*: How has service*

*-*

*learning*

*curricula impacted undergrads in*

*American Christian Universities since*

*2000*

*?*



Research\*

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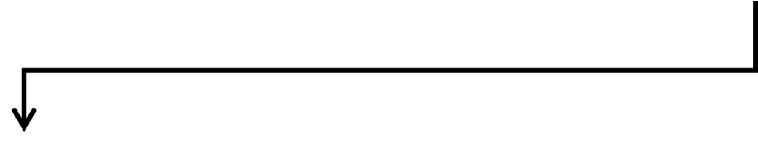
Find relevant sources.

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Read and take note of the main

points, conclusions, strengths, and

weaknesses of the research.



Analyze and Evaluate

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Assess how each source relates to

other research within the field.

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Group sources by

theme, topic, or

methodology

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•

Critically evaluate research.



Thesis Statement\*

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Your thesis statement should contain

the overarching focus for your

literature review as well as the main

supporting points you found in the

literature.

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See back for example.



Write Literature Review

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Use an introduction, body

paragraph(s), and a conclusion.

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Include summary, analysis, synthesis,

and evaluation (if appropriate).

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Lit review may be as short as a few

paragraphs or as long as a chapter.

**Literature Review Strategies**

The following are brief descriptions of techniques that you might use in your literature review. Choose the approaches that are the most pertinent to your rhetorical situation. Defer to your professor’s instructions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Summary**    Briefly state the argument and main points of relevant research. | **Synthesis**    Combine ideas in order to form an integrated theory or system through critical evaluation, compare/contrast, etc. |
| **Analysis**    Closely examine the elements or structure of the research and interpret through the lens of the field. | **Evaluation**    Assess the research based on criteria you choose, state, and  explain. Support your evaluation with research. |

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LINKS:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdJxY4w9XKY>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vc_Yu_61Ymg>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9la5ytz9MmM>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ydzerd9FT0>