Literature Review Guidelines
Template & Requirement

A literature review is a critical analysis and synthesis of existing research on a specific topic. While the specific requirements and format may vary depending on your institution, department, or the nature of your assignment, here is a general template and guidelines you can follow:

I. Introduction:

- Provide an overview of the research topic.
- Define the scope and purpose of the literature review.
- State the research question or objective.

II. Search Strategy:

- Describe the databases, journals, and other sources you used for your literature search.
- Explain the inclusion and exclusion criteria for selecting studies.
- Mention any keywords, phrases, or search terms used.

III. Body of the Literature Review:

- Organize the literature by themes, topics, or chronological order.
- Critically analyze and synthesize the key findings of each study.
- Identify patterns, trends, or gaps in the existing research.
- Compare and contrast different studies and methodologies.

IV. Methodology Critique:

- Evaluate the methodologies used in the studies you reviewed.
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each study's research design.
- Assess the reliability and validity of the research methods.

V. Major Themes or Concepts:

- Identify and discuss the major themes or concepts that emerge from the literature.
- Highlight key theories or frameworks that are relevant to the topic.

- Show how different studies contribute to the understanding of these themes.

VI. Gaps in the Literature:

- Discuss any gaps or limitations in the existing research.
- Identify areas where further research is needed.
- Suggest potential research questions that arise from these gaps.

VII. Conclusion:

- Summarize the main findings of the literature review.
- Highlight the contributions of existing research to the field.
- Emphasize the importance of your research in addressing gaps or advancing the field.

VIII. References:

- Provide a comprehensive list of all the sources cited in your literature review.
- Follow the citation style required by your institution (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.).

General Tips:

- Be critical and analytical in your approach.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Avoid unnecessary jargon.
- Connect the studies to your research question.