

Literature Review Outline

I. Introduction

- a. Describe the topic that you have been investigating, why it is important to the field
- b. Give a “big picture” of the literature.
- c. Present a thesis or argument statement – why is it important to explore this topic?

II. Body

Theme A

- a. Overview of characteristics of the theme (commonalities, differences, nuances)
- b. Discuss - Study 1 (Research question(s), Methods/Participants, Related Findings, Study 2, Study 3

Theme B

- a. Overview of characteristics of the theme (commonalities, differences, nuances)
- b. Discuss - Study 1 (Research question(s), Methods/Participants, Related Findings, Study 2, Study 3

-Repeat for any other themes for discussion

Do these studies share commonalities? How do these studies differ? Discuss any Sub-themes – narrow but grouped findings related to the theme

III. Conclusion:

An evaluation/critique of the existing literature.

- a. What are the contributions of this literature to the field?
- b. Return to your thesis statement
- c. What are the overall strengths?
- d. What are the overall weaknesses?
- e. What might be missing?
- f. What are some next steps for research? The next steps should explicitly address how to “correct” for strengths, weaknesses, and gaps.

References, APA Format:

Include a minimum of 5 here