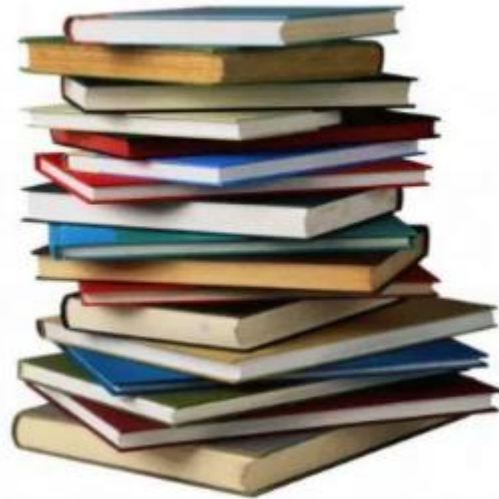





LITERATURE REVIEW








- **The literature review** should clearly demonstrate that the author has a good knowledge of the research area.
- Literature review typically occupies one or two passages in the introduction section.
- A well-written literature review should provide **a critical appraisal** of previous studies related to the current research area rather than a **simple summary of prior works**.
- The author shouldn't shy away from pointing out the **shortcomings of previous works**.

- However, criticising other's work without any basis can **weaken your paper**.
- This is a perfect place **to coin your research question** and **justify the need for such a study**.
- It is also worth pointing out towards the end of the review that your study is unique and there is no direct literature addressing this issue.
- Add a few sentences about the significance of your research and how this will add value to the body of knowledge.

critic criticism critique	
	n. the act of stating that something is bad or could be improved
	n. a report of something, such as a person's work or ideas, that examines it and provides a judgement of it
	n. 1 someone who says that they do not approve of someone or something 2 someone whose job is to give their opinion about something

Writing **a literature review** involves finding relevant publications (such as books and journal articles), critically analyzing them, and explaining what you found.

There are **five key steps** (*Evaluate, Search, Write, Identify, Outline*):

1.  _____ for relevant literature
2. _____  sources
3.  _____ themes, debates and gaps
4. _____  the structure
5.  _____ your literature review





True or false?

A good literature review doesn't just summarize sources - it analyzes, **synthesizes**, and critically evaluates to give a clear picture of the state of knowledge on the subject.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A LITERATURE REVIEW?

When you write a research paper, you will have to write it to situate your research within existing knowledge.

The literature review gives you a chance to (Develop, Show, Position, Demonstrate):

-  your familiarity with the topic and scholarly context
-  a theory and methodology for your research
-  yourself in relation to other researchers and theorists
-  how your research addresses a gap or contributes to a debate

REPORTING WHAT OTHERS SAY

Reporting verbs

Reporting what others say is a key aspect of academic English. Notice the verb patterns.

In her latest article Morton **explains** how information technology is changing society.

Schmidt **describes** the process of language change.

Lee **states** that problems arose earlier than was previously thought. [says directly]

Uvarov **claims/asserts/contends/maintains/declares** that the causes of the revolution can be traced back to the 1800s. [says something is true, often used when others disagree]

Levack **observes/notes/comments/points out** that there are contradictions in Day's interpretation of the poem. [states but does not develop at length]

In the book Dean **mentions** some new research in the field. [refers to briefly]

Kim **demonstrates/shows** how Bach's music draws on earlier composers' work.

Gray **proves** there is a link between obesity and genes. [shows that something must be true]

Kon **suggests** that all poets are influenced by their childhood. [says indirectly or tentatively]

Van Ek **implies** that other historians have misinterpreted the period. [suggests indirectly]

Patel **argues** that governments should fund space research. [states with reasons]

Greenberg **emphasises/highlights/stresses** the importance of diet. [gives particular importance to]

McIntosh **pinpoints** the key features of the period in question. [focuses in on]

Vaz **advances/puts forward/proposes** a new theory. [used with *idea, theory, hypothesis*]

Davidson **casts doubt on** previous research in the field. [suggests it is inaccurate]

Gerhard **questions** previous interpretations of the play. [expresses doubts about]

Cross out the word which is not possible in each sentence.

- 1 Sims *notes / observes / **pinpoints*** that commodity prices change depending on the season.
- 2 Grey *puts forward / **proves** / advances* a controversial theory to explain climate change.
- 3 Philipson ***claims** / questions / challenges* the accuracy of Malwar's figures.
- 4 Trail *stresses / emphasises / **asserts*** the importance of pilot testing before carrying out a survey.
- 5 Ripoll ***advances** / demonstrates / shows* how large-scale urban planning can go wrong.
- 6 Evans *declared / **cast doubt** / maintained* there was no causal link between the events.

Reporting nouns

Academic writing frequently uses reporting nouns. Notice the verbs and patterns with each noun

Morton **provides an explanation as to** how information technology is changing society.

Schmidt **gives a description of** the process of language change.

Lee's **statement** that problems arose earlier than previously thought **has been challenged**.

Uvarov **makes the claim/assertion** that the causes of the revolution can be traced back to the 1800s.

Levack's **observation** that there are contradictions in Day's interpretation of the poem **has been supported** by a number of other scholars.

Kim gives a fascinating **demonstration of the way in which** Bach's music draws on the work of earlier composers.

Gray **provides proof of** the link between obesity and genes.

Kon's **suggestion** that poets are influenced by their childhood **is convincing**.

Van Ek **makes the controversial implication** that other historians have misinterpreted the period.

Patel **puts forward the argument** that governments should fund space research.

Greenberg **puts emphasis/stress on** the importance of diet. [Pl = emphases]

Complete the table. Use a dictionary if necessary.

noun	verb	noun	verb
implication	imply	description	describe
observation	observe	statement	state
argument	argue	emphasis	emphasise
assertion	assert	explanation	explain
contention	contend	demonstration	demonstrate

Rewrite the sentences using nouns instead of the underlined verbs.

- 1 Harkov contends that population growth will be a serious problem, but this is not accepted by many scientists.

Harkov's *contention* that population growth will be a serious problem is not accepted by many scientists.

- 2 'Global symmetry' states that the laws of physics take the same form when expressed in terms of distinct variables.

'Global symmetry' is ... the statement that ...

- 3 The report implies that no individual government will ever be able to control the internet.

The report ... makes the implication that ...

- 4 Dudas demonstrates how dangerous genetic modification might be.

Dudas ... gives a demonstration of the way in which genetic modification might be dangerous.

- 5 Groot emphasises the role of schools in preventing teenage drug abuse.

Groot ... put emphasis on the role of ...

- 6 Lenard observes that women use expressions such as 'you know' in English more than men but this was later proved to be inaccurate.

Lenard's ... observation that ... was not supported

Common Mistake

According to is used when reporting others' viewpoints rather than your own. For example, *according to Greene and Willis ... but I would argue that ...* NOT ~~according to me~~.

Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

- 1 According to me, courses in academic writing should be compulsory for all new students.
- 2 It has not yet been proof that the virus can jump from species to species.
- 3 Richardson emphasises on a number of weaknesses in the theory.
- 4 Pratt makes a lot of emphasis on the relationship between geography and history.
- 5 Our latest results cast doubt to our original hypothesis.