

MCT 624 Thesis Fundamentals

Literature Review Overview and Rubric

The literature review section of your Thesis paper is a "re" view or "look again" at what has already been written about the topic as compiled by you in your annotated bibliography. The purpose is to convey to your reader what knowledge and ideas have been established on a topic including what their strengths and weaknesses may be.

Using critical analysis, the literature review is defined by your research objective, which serves as the guiding concept. *It is not just a descriptive list of the material available, or a set of summaries.* However, the literature review provides background for your problem, by putting your problem into historical perspective, and it shows how others handled similar problems in the past. The literature review addresses the research objectives and analyzes the current literature on the topic in a cohesive and comprehensive approach.

For this MCT 624 Thesis Fundamentals course, write up your thesis research findings thus far, explaining what author(s) have said regarding your thesis topic area and how each is relevant to your research problem or research question. Using the notes you have taken throughout your research study, provide a conclusion to support your research findings.

Important Note: Plan ahead so that you will be ready to submit your Literature Review to the Dropbox titled for this activity in Week 8.

You will want to research the format and content of what a literature review should include. Be sure to follow correct APA style and formatting. Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) states that a literature review typically contains the following sections:

Title page

Introduction section

List of references

Address the following in your write-up.

- Include a brief introductory paragraph that explains the organization of your literature review. Lead the reader into the literature review with the brief introduction.
- Organize the literature review to prove or disprove your thesis research problem or research question. Organizational strategies may be thematic, chronological, or historical.
- Evaluate the literature as a whole.
- Include your critical analysis and interpretation of how your research problem or research question was addressed in the literature. This needs to have a clear, coherent and logical flow supported by the literature.
- Include a conclusion of two to three paragraphs that sums up what your thesis research findings have revealed about your specific research problem or question. Your conclusion should tie back to the introduction and capsulize for the reader the essence of your findings.

For information on how your Literature Review will be evaluated, refer to the following rubric and also located in the Course Resources folder. Note that this is the same rubric that will be used to assess your literature review, Chapter 2, in your completed Thesis paper for MCT 626.

Literature Review Rubric

Criteria	Pass		No Pass	
	Exemplary	Satisfactory	Poor	Unacceptable
Research Objectives Literature review is tied to the research objectives	Clearly tied to the research objectives. It is clear how the articles. All concepts apply to the objectives.	Tied to the research objectives. Most concepts are focused and supportive.	The literature review is loosely related to the research objectives. Some concepts are focused and supportive.	The literature review does is not related to the research objectives. Concepts are unfocused and/or not supportive.
Critical Analysis The literature review represents a	The literature review represents a balanced a fair view. The author conscientiously presents and evaluates	The literature review represents a fair view. While the author presents and evaluates the literature of	The literature review is spotty. The author leaves out crucial perspectives leading to a biased	The literature review lacks evidence of analysis and evaluation. Crucial

critical analysis of the body of relevant literature.	literature of multiple perspectives in a clear, focused and unbiased manner. The writing demonstrates analysis and evaluation of the resources.	multiple perspectives, some perspectives may be missing. The writing represents analysis and evaluation of resources.	representation. Evidence of analysis and evaluation is weak.	perspectives are not included.
Comprehensive	The literature review is exhaustive including enough detail to indicate that it represents the body of knowledge.	A reasonable set of resources are included, but an important source may be missing.	Seminal and important resources are missing from the review	The set of resources is inadequate.
Coherence Coherence and language	The literature review is well written, concise, and thorough.	The literature review is written well but could use some work to tighten up language and flow.	Minor grammatical errors and occasional lack of coherence detract from the literature review and readability.	The literature review contains significant grammatical and/or structural errors making it difficult to read and comprehend.