

The Literature Review

Guidelines for writing

<p>Purpose: A Literature review is a review of the research and / or current discussion about a particular problem that has been identified, and/or needs to be answered. There are different approaches to literature reviews depending on your purpose, and it is advisable that you consult your lecturer or subject outline before you proceed.</p>					
Introduction	Theoretical Base	Research	Results & Discussion (Validation & Justification)	Consequences (Limitations & Implications)	Conclusion
<p>Introduce the topic 1. What is the research topic about? 2. How have you narrowed this area to a particular topic? Establish a context Why is your topic important? Identify & collect overview articles based on your topic.</p>	<p>Body After you have finished the reading on your topic you will be able to break it down into other areas or headings.</p>				<p>‘Step away’ from all the ideas you have reported. 1. What is your overall assessment of the adequacy of the study for exploring the research problem? 2. What can you say about the advancement of the theory and research in your chosen topic area? 3. Can you see any gaps or areas that need to be explored further?</p>
	<p>What are the theories? Report different theoretical approaches. 1. Is there a clearly stated research question? 2. Are there hypotheses? Are they clearly stated? 3. Are the relationships between the main variables explicit and reasonable? 4. Are the hypotheses stated in a way that makes testable and the results interpretable? 5. Can you describe the differing research in a new and insightful set of categories? 6. Identify trends in the literature.</p>	<p>What research has been done? How does this research validate (support) or conflict with the theoretical base? This step is very important. Where does the research fall within the broader theoretical base? What type of research has been conducted? (surveys, interviews etc) Is the research qualitative or quantitative? Are there proper controls for the variables tested? Could the design be improved? How? Are the reliability and validity measures discussed? Is the choice of measure appropriate? Is the population appropriate for the research question being studied? Is the sample specified and appropriate? Can the results be reasonably generalised on the basis of this sample?</p>	<p>Does the research support or conflict with the theoretical base? 1. Is the data appropriate for the study? 2. Are the statistical techniques appropriate and adequately described? 3. Are the control variables adequately handled in the data analysis? Are their other control variables that were not considered but should have? 4. Are the conclusions of the study consistent with the results of the statistical analyses? 5. Are alternative conclusions that are consistent with the differing kinds of research discussed and accounted for?</p>	<p>1. Are the theoretical and practical implications of the results adequately discussed? 2. Are the limitations of the study noted?</p>	