

COMPONENTS OF A LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Introduction

Overall presentation of topic

Thesis statement

Research Question

- a. Includes a general, overall presentation of the topic at hand, addressing the topics that will be discussed in the body
- b. Includes a thesis statement
- c. Includes a research question (e.g., Does student achievement increase as a result of positive teacher-student relationships?)

2. Body

No set # of paragraphs

Start paragraphs with topic sentence

End paragraphs with transition

Use research to support your ideas

Paragraphs should tie back to research questions

- a. The number of paragraphs in the body will vary, depending on the number of topics/points you address.
- b. Each paragraph must begin with a topic sentence that introduces the subject matter to be discussed. *This sentence should NOT be a direct quote from a source.
- c. Each paragraph should end with a transition sentence that connects to the next paragraph.
- d. YOUR VOICE must be heard!! You will use the research to support your words, your voice.
- e. Tie the evidence in the body back to your research question. (your job is to do the “work” for the reader—s/he should not have to make this connection. You as the writer do it for him/her. This enables your voice to be heard and demonstrates your solid understanding of the subject matter.)

3. Implications for Further Research

Point out holes in current research

Discuss issues that the research didn't address but should have

Add your own thoughts/ theories that need to be addressed

- a. In most literature reviews, there is a section called “implications for further research.” This is where you will point out the holes that exist in what has currently been presented. (e.g., studies that need to address building positive student relationships with culturally diverse students when such cultural norms are unknown to the teacher).
 - i. In addition to pointing out the holes, you address specific areas that need to be addressed. In essence you create new research questions to be pursued in order to fill in the gaps that currently exist.
 - ii. You may also include your own theories and/or ideas for filling in the gaps. For people who are conducting their own research studies, this is an area they must address.

4. Conclusion

Don't add new info

Summarize points and tie back to research question

- a. Highlight the points discussed in the body. Remember to tie the info back to your research question, essentially providing an answer to the research question in this section.

Checklist:

- Title page: Title of document, your name, date assignment was turned in
- Header: your last name and name of assignment (e.g., Eckles, Lit Review) on EVERY page
- First page: includes title of document AND your name (will be in the header)