

Chapter Two: LITERATURE REVIEW

The purpose of Chapter Two is to provide the reader with a comprehensive review related to the problem under investigation. This chapter serves as the foundation on which the study is built and as a basis for discussing results and interpretations. It summarizes what is known and identifies what is unknown about the topic of the dissertation study. The literature cited should support the theoretical argument being made and demonstrate that the author has a grasp of the major ideas and findings that pertain to the topic.

Topics included in the literature review should be based on the constructs included in the purpose of the study, research questions, hypotheses, as well as the theory or theories that support your design. If possible, adapt components from two or more theories, which will prevent the possibility of being pressured into validating one theory.

Chapter Two should include a synthesis of up-to-date research findings. It should also include discussion of the role of current research and the role of independent variables. William Carey Department of Education Leadership specifies that Chapter Two comprises at least 20-25 pages. The references used for this chapter should primarily be recent (within five years), peer-reviewed research articles. Chapter Two should be logically organized by theme, subtopic, or variable from broad to narrow.

Chapter Two should contain the following components:

Introduction

Chapter Two usually begins with an indication of the topics to be covered and the purpose of the review.

Description and Critique of Scholarly Literature

Each major theory, conceptual discussion, and empirical study should be described and discussed. Often the best strategy for organizing the literature review is to address major topics, theories, research questions or methodologies. Do not merely string together what other researchers have found. Rather, you should discuss and analyze the body of knowledge with the goal of determining what is known and is not known about the topic.

Do not ignore weaknesses in studies supporting your predispositions, and do not be hypercritical of studies that contradict your predispositions. Failure to conduct a fair-minded review is likely to compromise your research.

Summary

Chapter Two should end with a short summary of the information presented in the chapter. Several paragraphs that highlight the most pertinent information from the review of literature are usually sufficient. The summary should also provide a transition to Chapter Three.

Chapter Two Checklist

Did you:

	<p>Meet the requirement of 20-25 pages for this chapter? After choosing a topic for your dissertation, consider the information that is needed to support your topic and/or will support how you will conduct the study in Chapter III. Your review should present the theoretical background and major theories related to the topic.</p>
	<p>Logically organize the chapter by theme, subtopic, or variable from broad to narrow? Gather research for each one of themes, subtopics or variables that you have chosen and then develop each category as a separate section to be listed under the Level 1 heading, "LITERATURE REVIEW."</p>
	<p>Use the past tense when writing Chapter Two?</p>
	<p>Include recent (within five years), peer-reviewed research articles within your references?</p>
	<p>Center the headings of this chapter and capitalize and center all Level 1 headings? Example: LITERATURE REVIEW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introduction</p>
	<p>Include an Introduction to Chapter Two? The Introduction begins with an indication of the topics to be covered and the purpose of the review.</p>
	<p>Overuse direct quotes? In most cases, paraphrase what you want to share for your reader from what you found in the literature. Overuse of "directly quoted" material is to be avoided. Try to limit your use of direct quotes to no more than three. If using a direct quote, format the citation with the author, date, and page number, i.e., (Jones, 2015, p.5).</p>
	<p>Format in-text citations to include the author and date, for example, (Jones, 1998)? See https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/ for more information about formatting in-text citations.</p>
	<p>Complete a cross-list examination of all of the citations in Chapter II to ensure that each one is included in your Reference List? You should delete any references within the Reference List that are not included in your paper.</p>
	<p>Assign figures/tables with an Arabic numeral (Table 1)? You should italicize the title of the table/figure. The titles of table go above the table; the titles of figures go below the figure. For more information about formatting tables, go to: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/19/</p>
	<p>Cite works with three to five authors correctly? When you cite a source with three to five authors for the first time, use the word "and" within the authors' name within the text, and use the ampersand in parentheses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Research by Jones, Smith, and Ladner (2015) supports... • Example: (Jones, Smith, & Ladner, 2015).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information, see: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/3/
	<p>Cite works with three to five authors in subsequent citations by using only the first author's first name followed by "et al." in the signal phrase or in parentheses?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Jones et al., (2015) also reported that..... • Example: (Jones et.al., 2015)
	<p>Use the first author's name followed by "et. al." in the signal phrase or in parentheses when citing sources with six or more authors? See: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/3/ for more information.</p>
	<p>Include a Summary at the end of the chapter? The summary should present the key topics covered in Chapter II and provide a transition to Chapter III.</p>