

# New York City College of Technology

## Health Services Administration Program

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### Health Research Methods HSA 4740

#### Assignment: Literature Review

*Due Date: See Blackboard*

#### Purpose of a Literature Review

- To provide the researcher with substantial knowledge on a topic of interest so that future investigations are well informed and appropriately designed.
- To highlight key arguments and gaps in the field, study limitations, pertinent variables, and relevant research methods.
- To refine the research question or the hypothesis.
- To identify what one can contribute to the existing body of knowledge in a particular field of study.

*Literature review resources are available via links on Blackboard.*

#### Assignment Requirements

1. Paper components: Title page, table of contents, abstract, body - analytical review of the literature, reference page
2. Minimum of 4 text pages (not including the title, table of contents, abstract, and reference pages)
3. Maximum of 7 text pages (Additional pages will not be looked at.)
4. 12 font, double space, 1" margins
5. APA style (including a running head and page numbers) (APA style <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>)
6. **Eight (8) or more key research references** (at least six (6) must be from peer reviewed research articles; no newspapers, blogs, television reports, or the like are allowed.)
7. Must use your own words (no quotes, unless truly necessary).
8. Cite as needed (in-text).
9. Must be edited and free of spelling and grammatical errors.

**Proofread your work before submitting it! You are sending a final version to your professor.**

*See page two for a suggested outline.*

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Outline to get started (Source: OWL at Purdue):

### A. Introduction

- a. What is the topic under review?
- b. Why is this topic important? Why study it? (significance)
  - i. State the problem and its magnitude
  - ii. Provide supporting data and conclusions from credible sources (e.g., NYC DOHMH, CDC, etc.)
  - iii. What will the literature review cover/address?

### B. Body (literature under review)

- a. Integrate the summaries/descriptions of prior studies (your key sources)
  - i. Use themes, as appropriate
  - ii. Show how your key sources are related (do they support or contradict one another?)
  - iii. Significance and rationale of these studies
  - iv. Methods (type of study, sample, and how the data was collected)
  - v. Key arguments and main results as related to your topic
  - vi. Strengths of the studies
  - vii. Weaknesses -design limitations that effect the validity of the studies
- b. Demonstrate how your key sources support your research topic
  - i. How they help identify a relevant theory
  - ii. How they help identify key variables and measures
- c. Gaps in the research
  - i. Indicate possible areas of study
    1. Identify two to three gaps in this area of research
      - a. Consider the studies' limitations and their suggestions for future research
  - ii. Specify the area of focus you intend to investigate further and why
  - iii. Propose a research question and/or a hypothesis
    1. You may add sub-research questions, but be sure to have one main research question that is measurable
    2. What are the key variables to be investigated?
  - iv. State the overall aim and 2-3 key objectives of a study you would like to propose

*Note: The literature review is not a listing of annotated bibliographies. It is an analysis and synthesis of the studies under review, drawing connections between them. The paragraphs in the literature review are to be continuous so that the review has a coherent flow. Your key references function as evidence that supports your propose research study (Wesleyan University Library).*

### C. Conclusion

- a. Summarize the main findings of the literature review
- b. Restate which gap you will focus on and why it is important to study (significance to society)

**Reminder: Do not use the first person (i.e., "I," "my" --- e.g., "I will," "My study," etc.).**

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### GRADING

**You will be graded on:**

- **How well you follow instructions** (demonstrated by the content you provide)
  - Inclusion of all the required elements to complete the assignment
- **How well you present:**
  - A clear problem statement
  - A well supported rationale for studying the problem
  - The relevance of the background literature to the research topic and problem
  - An analysis of the background literature
  - The key research gaps and which one you will pursue, along with why
- **Your writing skills, including:**
  - Grammar & punctuation
  - Coherence of ideas
  - Detailed, yet concise summary of the background literature
  - Use of in-text citations in the APA format
  - Organization
  - Clarity and conciseness
  - Writing in your own words (do not just paraphrase other's ideas)

“How well” is assessed using the following criteria:

- Proficient/expert (sophisticated skills are present throughout the entire document; no improvement needed)
- Competent (evidence of skills throughout most of document; needs some improvement)
- Novice (minimal evidence of skills; needs a lot of improvement)

### WRITING TIPS (to remember)

- Spelling & grammar (proofread & revise, revise!)
- Introduce acronyms
- Define terms
- Use active voice
- Use parenthetical in-text citations
- Avoid wordiness and jargon
- Avoid first person writing and personal opinions
- Pay attention to transitions
- Pay attention to detail
- Provide a summary and analysis in your own words (avoid just paraphrasing others' ideas)

### SUPPLEMENTAL

You are strongly recommended to submit your near final draft to safe assignment before finalizing your literature review. This safe assignment link is set up in the *Self-Check* folder in the *Assignments* tab. Upload an MS Word file.

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