

The literature review portion of your paper is critical because it synthesizes the recent scientific literature that has been done in your topic area. Ultimately, the literature review will connect previous research to the present.

CONTENT

Your assignment must include each of the following areas, and abide by the given format:

1) Title Page

- a. Must be formatted in proper APA-style *with an original title*

2) Background Research Section (One page; at least 4 sources)

- a. This section provides the reader with a first step to understanding your topic. Secondary and/or primary sources may assist the reader with understanding the topic area.
 - i. Must include at least 1 unique heading and at least 2 unique subheadings and a total of 4 primary and/or secondary sources.

3) Allied Research Section (One page; at least 4 sources)

- a. This section may include a small amount of information from secondary sources to continue to provide a knowledge base for understanding the research; however, you may also provide primary research journal articles.
 - i. Must include at least 1 unique heading and at least 2 unique subheadings and a total of 4 primary and/or secondary sources.

4) Critical Research Section (Two pages; at least 6 sources)

- a. This section will include research studies aligned with your proposed research questions. Everything in this section will come directly from primary sources in research journals.
 - i. Must include at least 1 unique heading and at least 2 unique subheadings and a total of 6 primary sources.

5) Summary Section (One-page page; at least 4 sources)

- a. This section will include a brief overview of the research that has been conducted to date while concluding with information that identifies what research is needed *now* in your area of interest. The future research that is suggested will connect to your proposed research question; here you will connect the past research with what you are interested in studying. However, you will simply state the future research; you are not presenting it in the form of a hypothesis or statement of the problem.
 - i. Must include 1 heading (*Summary*) and 2 subheadings (*Synopsis of Research Findings* and *Suggestions for Future Research*).

6) Reference Page

- a. A minimum of 18 total sources must be included:
 - i. All sources must be credible and based on scientific studies (i.e. scholarly); there is information provided below about how to identify “credible” sources
 - ii. All sources must have been published between 2013-present (Older studies that you feel are necessary for your paper must be approved by the instructor prior to assignment submission)

- iii. Your textbook is not an appropriate source for this assignment (look in the text's bibliography for related primary sources)
- iv. Do NOT forget to cite your sources in-text; your reference page and in-text citations must match

Formatting, etc.

- Font, Spacing, etc.: Content of the paper must adhere to the following specifications:
 - Times New Roman font
 - 12-point
 - Double-spaced
 - 1" margins on all four sides
- Length: Content must be a minimum of 5 pages in length, not to exceed 6 pages (note that the title and reference pages are not counted toward this length).
- Submission: The correct document must be typed and *properly submitted* as an attachment to the correct assignment folder in Blackboard by the deadline listed above by each student
- About APA Style and Scholarly References:
 - ***DO NOT PLAGIARIZE! This includes, but is not limited to, copying/pasting word-for-word (or nearly word-for-word), citing a direct quote without quotations, including a reference page without in-text citations, and more. WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK!***
 - Please note that you will receive a zero on this, and any other assignment, if blatant plagiarism is found.
 - Remember to cite every fact, figure, and piece of information. For APA style visit the link below and pay attention to the left-side menu (how to correctly cite in-text; formatting a reference page, etc.) at this site: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
 - Some helpful information about finding **credible**, scholarly references include: <http://libguides.indstate.edu/content.php?pid=175498&sid=3038787>.
 - Information about credible journal articles: <http://lib.colostate.edu/howto/evaljrl2.html>
 - Also, Chapter 4 of our textbook provides very helpful information on scientific writing (e.g. grammar, diction, punctuation, and APA style).

Grading Rubric

Your assignment will be evaluated per the following six areas. See below for guidelines regarding what an 'A' paper, 'B' paper, etc. would look like.

1. Addressing questions/content (10)
2. Thoroughness and quality of content (15)

3. Correct Writing (5)
4. Use of resources (15)
5. Adherence to formatting guidelines, etc. (5)

A range:

- Addressed every question/content area provided in the content guidelines
- Addressed questions/content areas thoroughly, and with well-supported empirical data from credible sources
- Content areas are well-written (clear, appropriate sentence structure, logical flow, etc.), using correct grammar and spelling
- Used resources and citations appropriately, and adhered correctly to APA style
- Followed formatting and assignment guidelines flawlessly (or nearly flawlessly)

B range:

- Addressed almost all questions/content areas provided in the content guidelines (may have missed 1-2 small areas)
- Addressed questions/content areas somewhat thoroughly, and with well-supported data from mostly credible sources
- Content areas are mostly well-written (fairly clear, appropriate sentence structure, logical flow, etc.), using mostly correct grammar and spelling (some errors)
- Used most resources and citations appropriately, and adhered correctly to APA style most of the time
- Followed formatting and assignment guidelines flawlessly (or nearly flawlessly)

C range:

- Addressed few of the questions/content areas provided in the content guidelines
- Addressed questions/content areas inadequately, and with thin data
- Content areas are not well-written (somewhat unclear, imbalanced sentence structure, confusing flow, etc.), using incorrect grammar and spelling in several areas
- Resources and citations were not always appropriately used, and failed to adhere correctly to APA style in some areas
- Did not follow formatting and assignment guidelines in a few areas

D range:

- Addressed few of the questions/content areas provided in the content guidelines
- Addressed questions/content areas extremely inadequately, and with thin data

- Content areas are poorly written (unclear, incorrect sentence structure, no logical flow, etc.), using incorrect grammar and spelling in many or most areas
- Resources and citations were inappropriately used, and failed to adhere correctly to APA style in many areas
- Did not follow formatting and assignment guidelines in a many areas

Failing:

- Any combination of one or more of the following (this is not an exhaustive list):
- Content and formatting guidelines completely disregarded
- No (or almost no) references/citations provided
- Large areas of assignment not completed or provided
- Not turned in by the deadline (50% reduction within 24-hours of deadline or zero points after 24 hours)

Credible Sources for Academic Writing

Many sources, particularly online, are not appropriate for academic writing. Use the following criteria to evaluate the credibility and appropriateness of the sources you are planning to use. Do not use sources that do not meet these criteria.

1. *Authorship and Credentials:* What person or group wrote the content and what are their credentials? If you can't immediately determine who the author is and what their credentials are, then don't use it. Keep in mind, the author could be a group or organization. Go to the home page or the "About Us" page and look for this information.
2. *Dates:* When was the content written or last updated? There should be a date on the page, usually at the bottom, telling you when the content was last reviewed or updated. This is usually not the copyright date. Sometimes this date might be on the home page in a note stating when the entire site was last reviewed. If you can't find the date, don't use the source because you don't know exactly how old it is or if anyone is bothering to keep it current. If you are using the source for statistics, it should not be older than five years. Otherwise, generally use sources that are not older than ten years.
3. *Documentation:* Is the content referenced? Were citations used? Evaluate where the author got the information used to write the content on the site. If they don't tell you or you don't see a reference list, avoid using the site as your source unless you know the credentials of the author. For example, the CDC and NIH don't always provide a reference list on every page, but usually this information is linked. Sometimes you may find a site that does not meet all the criteria, but the site provides a bibliography. Instead of using the site, go to the primary sources listed in the bibliography and use those. This way, you're getting the information first-hand instead of a re-hashed interpretation from a third or fourth party.

4. *Sponsorship*: Who is sponsoring (paying for) the site? Do not use commercial (.com) sites since their main purpose is to sell or advertise something and you don't know how or if this impacts the content.

Do not use Wikipedia. Do not use .com (commercial) sites. As a general rule, stick with sites that end in .edu or .gov