

PSYC227: Cognitive Psychology Literature Review Paper

Organizing the Paper

1. Start your paper with a general introduction to the topic that you plan to focus on. Here you can include information from the textbook, the empirical articles you will summarize, as well as other from other secondary sources you may have found that relate to the topic (such as review papers or reputable websites, etc) Your introduction should be two to three paragraphs in length.
2. Then summarize each of the five articles* – remember each of the articles should be related to the specific focus of your paper. Answer the following questions for each article. Write each summary using full sentences and paragraphs. Do NOT include subheadings. Your summary should read smoothly, with transitions between paragraphs etc. You should also make connections between the various studies...they should be presented in a logical order and it should be clear how they relate to one another. (* if there is more than one experiment in the article, you can elect to summarize only one of the experiments—you decide which one).
 - a. What was the research about? Why did the researchers conduct the study/studies?
 - b. What was/were the researchers' hypotheses? Why did they make those hypotheses? Note that a "hypothesis" is a statement about the expected relationship between two or more variables—the statement may or may not include a reason for why the relationship is thought to occur (that is, the statement can state simply that a relationship will be found or the statement can state that the relationship will be found because of some specific reason)
 - c. Who did they test as participants? Give numbers, ages, genders, etc. Don't give college or university where the study took place
 - d. What were their procedures?
 - e. What was the independent (manipulated) variable(s)? What was the dependent (measured variable)? Be specific as to how they manipulated the IV and how they measured the DV
 - f. What did they find? Be as specific as possible but focus on the main findings as they relate to the researchers' hypothesis. Discuss whether or not their hypothesis was supported or not
 - g. What conclusions did the researchers make based on their findings?
 - h. What did the researchers say (if anything) were the strengths of their study?
 - i. What did the researchers say (if anything) were the limitations of their study?
3. Discuss important similarities and differences between the five studies—again the various studies should all be focused on same basic topic so you can discuss how they were similar/different in their approach to the topic, their specific way of measuring variables, their findings, etc.

4. Draw final conclusions—based on your review of the literature, what can you conclude with regards to the specific question your paper focused on? Support this conclusion by linking back to the empirical research. You can also reference secondary sources here as well.
5. What questions or issues remain in terms of fully answering the specific question your paper focused on? How might this questions or issues be addressed? You can also reference secondary sources here as well.

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE FROM THE ARTICLES!
Put the information into your own words and sentence structure!