

LITERATURE REVIEW

WHAT IS IT? TIPS AND TRICKS



What is a Literature Review?

A Literature Review is a comprehensive synthesis of different readings. These sources often relate to a similar topic. Typically, different sources are compared or contrasted within the paper.



Lit Reviews in Various Disciplines

Different academic disciplines might have different expectations for what a literature review should accomplish. For example, a humanities lit review might involve more arguments or interpretations. A lit review in the sciences might report scientific findings or methods. It might be helpful to search for examples in your discipline or talk to your professor.



Review not Summary

A literature review is not a summary of each of the sources. It is a review/analysis of each source and how it relates to the main topic. Lit reviews do not include many quotes because the focus should be about analyzing the content of the source.



Organization

A lit review should have a clear path of organization. It would be beneficial to have an introduction to the topic and the sources. The body paragraphs typically serve as the synthesis/analysis of the sources. The conclusion connects everything back to the main topic/idea.



Dinner Party Trick

Imagine you are hosting a party and all your guests are the sources in your review. What would one source say to another at the party? Would there be disputes? Agreements? Think of these sources as characters and let them speak to each other in the paper.



Extra help?

Purdue Owl has some more detailed information about lit reviews. Check out their page by clicking [here](#). The Writing Center is also a resource to help you with writing a literature review.

CONGRATULATIONS! TIME TO WRITE A LITERATURE REVIEW

Some information derived from Purdue Owl