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Sample Essay: An Example to Follow
 Student's Name
 Liberty University

Sample Documented Essay Essay: An Example to Follow

Repeat your title at the beginning of your essay. Place a one-half inch indent (one tab) at the beginning of each new paragraph. American Psychological Association (APA) format is double spaced lines, one-inch margins, and two spaces between each sentence. This section serves as a short introduction to your essay. Describe your topic and tell how your essay will treat it.

Heading (a short title for your paragraph)

Discuss a main point here. Be clear and concise. When you use a quote of under 40 words put it in quotation marks. Ridener and Fritzer (2004) state "something that relates to your essay" (p. 12). If you paraphrase (put in your own words) something that an author said indicate that at the end of the paraphrase. Math is super fun for kids (Ridener & Fritzer, 2004). If your quote is more than 40 words, you indent. Ridener and Fritzer state:

This quote is more than forty words. Notice how I did not include the year following Ridener and Fritzer. If you have previously quoted the authors in a paragraph your only need to state their names the second time. If it is the first time you are quoting them in a paragraph include the year. (p. 22)

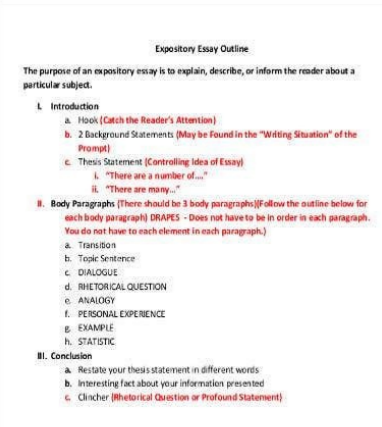
Remember that a paragraph consists of at least two sentences.

Something Else I Wanted to Say

When you are writing in APA, you usually write in the third person when referring to your thoughts. For example, this author thinks it would be wise to purchase the *Concise Rules of APA*. For the essays that ask for autobiographic information, you may write in the first person. For example, I once failed a college math course, but kept trying and passed it the next time. When you have finished presenting your ideas, you will need to write a conclusion.

Conclusion

Restate the main points you covered and any concluding thoughts you may have. Remember to keep the essay between 250 and 350 words. I will deduct 5 points for every 50 words in excess of 350. Your references should be put on a separate page. They are double-spaced, in alphabetical order, and have a hanging indent of 1/2 inch. I have included an example



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 Appalachian State University

Literature Review Outline

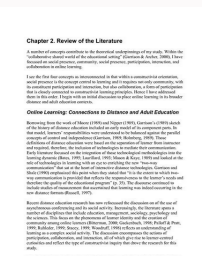
- I. Introduction
 - a. Describe the overall topic that you have been investigating, why it is important to the field, and why you are interested in the topic.
 - b. Identify themes and trends in research questions, methodology, and findings. Give a "big picture" of the literature.
- II. Theme A³
 - a. Overview of characteristics of the theme (commonalities, differences, nuances)
 - b. Sub-theme – narrow but grouped findings related to the theme
 - i. Study 1 (Research question(s), Methods/Participants, Related Findings)
 - ii. Study 2 (Research question(s), Methods/Participants, Related Findings)
 - iii. Study 3 (Research question(s), Methods/Participants, Related Findings)
 - c. Sub-theme – narrow but grouped findings related to the theme
 - i. Study 4 (Research question(s), Methods/Participants, Related Findings)
 - ii. Study 5 (Research question(s), Methods/Participants, Related Findings)
 - iii. Study 6 (Research question(s), Methods/Participants, Related Findings)
 - d. Etc., etc., etc. with other findings that fit Theme A; studies can be repeated if there are multiple findings that fit under more than one theme. However, no need to re-write methods/participants in detail (just enough to remind the reader about the study).
- III. Theme B – follow a, b, c, and so on from above
- IV. Keep repeating with themes
- V. Conclusion: *An evaluation/critique of the existing literature. Write several paragraphs.*
 - a. What are the contributions of this literature to the field?
 - b. What are the overall strengths?
 - c. What are the overall weaknesses?
 - d. What might be missing?
 - e. What are some next steps for research? The next steps should explicitly address how to "correct" for strengths, weaknesses, and gaps.

Use APA level headings 1, 3, & 4. See Creswell (page 112) or APA manual for formatting.

Review of the Literature on Girl Culture (Level 1)

- Resistance (Level 3)
 - Overview of resistance (Level 4)
 - Resistance to teachers (Level 4)
 - Resistance as strategic (Level 4)
 - Resistance as subconscious (Level 4)

³ Remember: The theme is a broad word or phrase that synthesizes a more narrow group of related findings. E.g., a theme of "Resistance" would include types of resistance, resistance to whom, resisting what, etc.



Literature Review Template

Definition: A literature review is an objective, critical summary of published research literature relevant to a topic, under consideration for research. Its purpose is to create familiarity with current thinking and research on a particular topic, and may justify future research into a previously overlooked or understudied area.

A typical literature review consists of the following components:

- Introduction:**
 - A **concise definition of a topic** under consideration (this may be a descriptive or argumentative thesis, or proposal), as well as the **scope of the related literature** being investigated. (Example: If the topic under consideration is 'women's wartime diaries', the scope of the review may be limited to published or unpublished works, works in English, works from a particular location, time period, or conflict, etc.)
 - The **introduction should also note intentional exclusions.** (Example: *"This review will not explore the diaries of soldiers' wives."*)
 - Another purpose of the introduction is to state the **general findings** of the review (what do most of the sources conclude), and comment on the **availability** of sources in the subject area.
- Main Body:**
 - There are a number of ways to organize the evaluation of the sources. **Chronological and thematic approaches** are each useful examples.
 - Each work should be **critically summarized and evaluated for its premise, methodology, and conclusion.** It is as important to address inconsistencies, omissions, and errors, as it is to identify accuracy, depth, and relevance to your research.
 - Use **logical connections and transitions** to connect sources.
- Conclusion**
 - The **conclusion summarizes the key findings** of the review in general terms. Notable commonalities between works, whether favourable or not, may be included here.
 - This section is the reviewer's opportunity to **justify a research proposal.** Therefore, the idea should be clearly motivated and supported according to the findings of the review.

Step 3: Identify themes, debates and gaps To begin organising your literature review's argument and structure, you need to understand the connections and relationships between the sources you've read. Methodological If you draw your sources from different disciplines or fields that use a variety of research methods, you might want to compare the results and conclusions that emerge from different approaches. Chronological The simplest approach is to trace the development of the topic over time. What you include in each depends on the objective of your literature review. Gaps: what is missing from the literature? Themes: what questions or concepts recur across the literature? A literature review is a survey of scholarly sources on a specific topic. You can use it to discuss various theories, models, and definitions of key concepts. Critically evaluate: mention the strengths and weaknesses of your sources. What is a literature review? What are the key concepts and how are they defined? The literature review gives you a chance to: Demonstrate your familiarity with the topic and scholarly context Develop a theoretical framework and methodology for your research Position yourself in relation to other researchers and theorists Show how your dissertation addresses a gap or contributes to a debate You might also have to write a literature review as a stand-alone assignment. If the same authors, books or articles keep appearing in your reading, make sure to seek them out. When you write a dissertation or thesis, you will have to conduct a literature review to situate your research within existing knowledge. You can use our free APA Reference Generator for quick, correct, consistent citations. Compare your paper with over 60 billion web pages and 30 million publications. What are its key insights and arguments? Introduction The introduction should clearly establish the focus and purpose of the literature review. Thematic If you have found some recurring central themes, you can organise your literature review into subsections that address different aspects of the topic. Pivotal publications: are there any influential theories or studies that changed the direction of the field? Click on either button below to download. When you find a useful book or article, you can check the bibliography to find other relevant sources. You can emphasise the timeliness of the topic ("many recent studies have focused on the problem of x") or highlight a gap in the literature ("while there has been much research on x, few researchers have taken y into consideration"). Based on your reading and notes, you can look for: Trends and patterns (in theory, method or results); do certain approaches become more or less popular over time? Make sure the sources you use are credible, and make sure you read any landmark studies and major theories in your field of research. What are the key theories, models and methods? Does the research use established frameworks or take an innovative approach? You can use our template to summarise and evaluate sources you're thinking about using. As you write, make sure to follow these tips: Summarise and synthesise: give an overview of the main points of each source and combine them into a coherent whole. Does it confirm, add to, or challenge established knowledge? Unlike a dissertation research question, this question has to be answerable without collecting original data. For each publication, ask yourself: What question or problem is the author addressing? Frequently asked questions about literature reviews What is the purpose of a literature review? This helps you remember what you read and saves time later in the process. How does the publication relate to other literature in the field? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the research? Body Depending on the length of your literature review, you might want to divide the body into subsections. Write in well-structured paragraphs: use transitions and topic sentences to draw connections, comparisons and contrasts. It provides an overview of current knowledge, allowing you to identify relevant theories, methods, and gaps in the existing research. It can be helpful to make an annotated bibliography, where you compile full reference information and write a paragraph of summary and analysis for each source. What are the results and conclusions of the study? Download Word docDownload Google doc Take notes and cite your sources As you read, you should also begin the writing process. Make a list of keywords Start by creating a list of keywords related to your research topic. Depending on the length of your literature review, you can combine several of these strategies (for example, your overall structure might be thematic, but each theme is discussed chronologically). This step will help you work out the structure of your literature review and (if applicable) show how your own research will contribute to existing knowledge. Are there weaknesses that need to be addressed? The scope of your review will depend on your topic and discipline: in the sciences you usually only review recent literature, but in the humanities you might take a long historical perspective (for example, to trace how a concept has changed in meaning over time). To identify the most important publications on your topic, take note of recurring citations. Give your interpretation of how and why certain developments occurred. Download Word doc Download Google doc TipWe've also compiled a few examples for you below. If the literature review is part of your dissertation or thesis, reiterate how your research addresses gaps and contributes new knowledge, or discuss how you have drawn on existing theories and methods to build a framework for your research. Conclusion In the conclusion, you should summarise the key findings you have taken from the literature and emphasise their significance. Check out this example of a thematic literature review about the effects of technology on language acquisition. You can add to this list if you discover new keywords in the process of your literature search. How does the publication contribute to your understanding of the topic? In this case, the purpose is to evaluate the current state of research and demonstrate your knowledge of scholarly debates around a topic. Take notes that you can later incorporate into the text of your literature review. Example of trends and gapsIn reviewing the literature on social media and body image, you note that: Most research has focused on young women. We've written a step-by-step guide that you can follow below. You should have a rough idea of your strategy before you start writing. Step 4: Outline your literature review's structure There are various approaches to organising the body of a literature review. It's important to keep track of your sources with references to avoid plagiarism. There is an increasing interest in the visual aspects of social media. Try to analyse patterns, turning points and key debates that have shaped the direction of the field. You can use a subheading for each theme, time period, or methodological approach. Step 5: Write your literature review Like any other academic text, your literature review should have an introduction, a main body, and a conclusion. Include each of the key concepts or variables you're interested in, and list any synonyms and related terms. Analyse and interpret: don't just paraphrase other researchers – add your own interpretations, discussing the significance of findings in relation to the literature as a whole. If you are writing the literature review as part of your dissertation or thesis, reiterate your central problem or research question and give a brief summary of the scholarly context. This can lead directly into your methodology section. If you are writing the literature review section of a dissertation or research paper, you will search for literature related to your research objectives and questions. You should be able to answer it based only on a review of existing publications. Check out this example of a chronological literature review about how the concept of listening skills has changed over time. Best plagiarism checker of 2020 Plagiarism report & percentage Largest plagiarism database Scribbr Plagiarism Checker Step 2: Evaluate and select sources You probably won't be able to read absolutely everything that has been written on the topic – you'll have to evaluate which sources are most relevant to your questions. You might argue for the relevance of a specific theoretical approach, or combine various theoretical concepts to create a framework for your research. Check out this example of a methodological literature review about interdisciplinary knowledge acquisition and production. For example: Look at what results have emerged in qualitative versus quantitative research Discuss how the topic has been approached by empirical versus theoretical scholarship Divide the literature into sociological, historical, and cultural sources Theoretical A literature review is often the foundation for a theoretical framework. Keywords example Social media, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, TikTok Body image, self-perception, self-esteem, mental health Generation Z, teenagers, adolescents, youth Search for relevant sources Use your keywords to begin searching for sources. However, if you choose this strategy, be careful to avoid simply listing and summarising sources in order. Check out this example of a theoretical literature review about the development of economic migration theory from the 1950s to today. Debates, conflicts and contradictions: where do sources disagree? There are five key steps to writing a literature review: A good literature review doesn't just summarise sources – it analyses, synthesises, and critically evaluates to give a clear picture of the state of knowledge on the subject. There are several reasons to conduct a literature review at the beginning of a research project: To familiarise yourself with the current state of knowledge on your topic To ensure that you're not just repeating what others have already done To identify gaps in knowledge and unresolved problems that your research can address To develop your theoretical framework and methodology To provide an overview of the key findings and debates on the topic Writing the literature review shows your reader how your work relates to existing research and what new insights it will contribute. Step 1: Search for relevant literature Before you begin searching for literature, you need a clearly defined topic. But there is still a lack of robust research on highly-visual platforms like Instagram and Snapchat – this is a gap that you could address in your own research. You can find out how many times an article has been cited on Google Scholar – a high citation count means the article has been influential in the field, and should certainly be included in your literature review. Some databases to search for journals and articles include: You can use boolean operators to help narrow down your search: Read the abstract to find out whether an article is relevant to your question. Research question exampleWhat is the impact of social media on body image among Generation Z? Examples of literature reviews Writing literature reviews can be quite challenging! A good starting point could be to look at some examples, depending on what kind of literature review you'd like to write. The content will look slightly different in each case, but the process of conducting a literature review follows the same steps. For example, if you are reviewing literature about inequalities in migrant health outcomes, key themes might include healthcare policy, language barriers, cultural attitudes, legal status, and economic access. If you are writing a literature review as a stand-alone assignment, you will have to choose a focus and develop a central question to direct your search. For a template with literature review examples and sample outlines, click on the link below of your choice. Why write a literature review?

Thesis Proposal Format . The format of the thesis proposal typically follows the below pattern. Title Page . The title page includes the research title, student and supervisor's name, along with the submission date. Table of Contents. It gives a complete layout of the proposal by stating the headings and subheadings with their page numbers ... Here are other examples based on anti abortion arguments that can aid a person writing a thesis statement: Abortion damages women. It violates feminist principles. It does not liberate women but enslaves them to guilt. To some people, it is a plot by males as a way of dodging responsibilities. Tip 3: Abortion Thesis Statement Examples 12/12/2019 · Read The Holocaust Theses and other exceptional papers on every subject and topic college can throw at you. We can custom-write anything as well! 12/12/2019 · Read The Holocaust Theses and other exceptional papers on every subject and topic college can throw at you. We can custom-write anything as well! Here are other examples based on anti abortion arguments that can aid a person writing a thesis statement: Abortion damages women. It violates feminist principles. It does not liberate women but enslaves them to guilt. To some people, it is a plot by males as a way of dodging responsibilities. Tip 3: Abortion Thesis Statement Examples Thesis Proposal Format . The format of the thesis proposal typically follows the below pattern. Title Page . The title page includes the research title, student and supervisor's name, along with the submission date. Table of Contents. It gives a complete layout of the proposal by stating the headings and subheadings with their page numbers ...

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