

## WRITING A LITERATURE REVIEW

### Explanation:

A literature review should be written like an essay, with an introduction that gives an overview of key themes and critical debates while strongly indicating what the focus will be of this particular review of a range of different texts. The body of the literature review should be organized in paragraphs.

Basically, a literature review is the presentation, classification and evaluation of what other researchers have written on a particular subject. It is not simply a shopping list of what others have said. It does not and cannot refer to every piece of literature in the field. Rather, a literature review is organised according to the research objective given in your assignment instructions.

A sophisticated use of referencing is very important to the literature review, because you will be canvassing who said what on particular sub-topics or themes related to the overall topic. Make sure to use a mix of referencing strategies, including direct and indirect quotes, paraphrasing and summarizing. Don't forget to compare and evaluate the different perspectives of the texts or authors you refer to.

### Learning activity:

Use this guide to get started on your annotated bibliography. However, think carefully about which types of references are appropriate for your assignment.

<http://classroomactivities.pbworks.com/w/page/15980297/Literature%20Review%20Activity>

### Other resources:

Writing an annotated bibliography

Academic Skills and Learning Center, Australian National University

<https://academicskills.anu.edu.au/resources/handouts/writing-annotated-bibliography>

Checklist for the annotated bibliography

Language and Learning Online, Monash University

<http://www.monash.edu.au/lls/llonline/writing/science/10.1.xml>

Writing an annotated bibliography

University of Toronto

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/annotated-bibliography>

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