

Literature Review Critique Instructions

SUMMARY

The purpose of a literature review critique is to become familiar with the scope and format of a typical literature review. You will also summarize the main points of a literature review and contemplate the implications of this information for the field of research it reviews. The purpose is NOT to critique the writing of the paper.

WHAT TO DO

You will write a critique of a literature review that conforms to the word processing guidelines listed in the greensheet.

Select a review article from one of the *Annual Review of Nutrition*. Pick an article that is interesting to you. The article should be relatively recent (from 2010 to present).

Here are some guidelines for writing your critique:

- ❖ Read the article at least once without highlighting it or writing down any notes as you read. The purpose of this step is to gain a general overview of the article and its highlights.
- ❖ Think about what you just read. Make some notes about what you think the main points were, and about what you need clarified.
- ❖ Read the article again, this time paying attention to the topic under review and what the author wants the reader to take away from the review. Take some notes in your own words.
- ❖ The entire critique should consist of about 2 pages of summary (500 words) and 2 pages of analysis (500 words). Please see the notes below on using headers in your paper. The word count should be 1000 words (plus or minus 50). You must indicate the total number of words at the end of your paper. You should include a brief (i.e., a couple of sentences) introduction at the beginning of your paper. Also remember to provide a citation of the article. Format your citation using the style used in *Annual Review of Nutrition*.

Your summary should address the following questions:

- ❖ Why did the author(s) write this review? What need does this review address? This information should be based on the Introduction section of the paper.
- ❖ What are the implications of the research summarized and synthesized in the review for the field in general? This information should be based on discussion-type sections that typically come at the end of the review paper; it should also be based on your own analysis.

Make sure that the summary has enough information so that the reader of your critique can understand what was covered by the review without having to read the original article. Please use a header (Summary) to demarcate this section of the paper.

Your analysis should address the following questions:

- ❖ Considering the Introduction of the paper, were the subtopics discussed in the review paper presented in a logical order? Did the author link the subtopics in a logical fashion? (You will need to briefly identify what sub-topics were addressed in the literature review, and more importantly, how do these sub-topics relate to one another?)
- ❖ What were the strengths of the review paper, specifically in the coverage given to subtopics?
- ❖ What were the weaknesses of the review paper, specifically in the coverage given to subtopics?
- ❖ Did the authors suggest areas for future study? If so, what were their recommendations?

Note: the number one problem students encounter with this assignment is that they fail to develop the analysis portion of the critique! Please use a header (Analysis) to demarcate this section of the paper.

Here is the rubric I will use for your literature review critique:

	POINTS
SUMMARY	
Is the rationale and context of the review stated clearly, correctly and with adequate information?	3
Implications of the research identified and described relative to the field of study.	5
ANALYSIS	
Relationship and arrangement of subtopics discussed, including at least one example of how the author(s) did or did not do this effectively.	5
Strengths and weaknesses of the review paper discussed, with examples given to illustrate.	5
WRITING COMPETENCE	
Grammar and usage (vocabulary, economy of language, writing tight)	10
Literature citations & bibliography are used and formatted correctly	2
Paper is correctly formatted and is free of typographical errors; headers are used; word count is given and is appropriate for the assignment	5
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