How to write a Literature Review

A **literature review** is a critical and in-depth evaluation of previous research. It is a summary and synopsis of a particular area of research, allowing anybody reading the paper to establish why you are pursuing this particular research program.

1. **What is *your topic/central claim*? Explain why your claim is valid and relevant to your study.**

2. **The general central claim of the research article**
    1. What the author's central claim?

    2. **How does the author's claim relate or connect to your central claim?**

3. **Reason for writing:**
   Why is ***the author's*** research question/central claim important?

4. **Essential Question/Thesis Issue:**
   What topical issue does this author's scholarly work attempt to solve or explain? What is the main argument?

5. **Methodology:**
   This may include approaches used by the author or study, or may describe the types of evidence used in the research by the author or study

6. **Results:**
   What insight or conclusions does the author offer *that relates to your central claim*?

7. **Key vocabulary and phrases:**
   What key words or phrases identify the content and focus of the article or work? Why are they important?

A reminder: All literature reviews include:
1. A full citation of the source, according to your discipline and/or the direction of your mentor.
2. The most important information first.
3. A comprehensive summary of information from the article relevant to your central claim.
4. Clear, concise, and powerful language (includes active voice).

Sample literature review:

Citation of source (Please identify style (MLA, APA, etc):

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Literature Review (summary) of source that explains how the author's claim and evidence relate to your central claim

Review entries 2-7 on the first page of this worksheet and compose a summary that addresses your central claim, based on your summary and analysis annotation of the article you choose. The answers you provided on the previous page will help you compose your work.

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