

How to Structure a Literature Review

As you conduct your research, keep a close eye on what your sources are saying. This will help you develop an organizational structure for your literature review, similar to an annotated bibliography.

Some disciplines require you to organize your [pay someone to do my online class](#) topically, comparing and contrasting how they discuss similar topics or points. Others may require you to report on scholarship that supports your study's rationale.

1. Getting Started

First, establish a clear research aims, objectives and research questions. These serve as the "golden thread" that should guide every decision you make when sourcing and reviewing literature. If you don't have these clearly defined, it is easy to get sidetracked by irrelevant resources.

Once you have these outlined, begin searching for relevant journal articles and other resources. To save time, search the library catalogue for key terms or use a research database to identify scholars who have written on your topic and see what other articles they've cited.

It's important to remember that you're joining an [NHS FPX 4000 Applying Ethical Principles](#) conversation with previous scholars who have examined similar or related topics, often over centuries and subject areas. You need to understand where your study fits within this bigger picture and what insights readers will gain from reading your Literature Review. This will also help you identify gaps in knowledge that your research can fill. Moreover, it will demonstrate to your marker that you have read widely and have a clear understanding of the current state of knowledge in this area.

2. Researching

While you are reading your sources, you should be taking notes. These can be as simple as listing the author's names and publication dates, or more detailed annotated bibliographies that compile comprehensive citation information along with short paragraphs summarizing and analyzing each source. If you choose to organize your literature review thematically, this can help you find recurring central themes, and also allow you to make direct connections between them, as well as identify any gaps in knowledge that need to be filled by future research.

You might also want to look for patterns, turning points or key [NR 504 Week 3](#) in the literature, as these can help you to shape your own interpretation of how your topic has evolved. You might even find that some authors are consistently cited by others, and this can give you an idea of where to focus your own research efforts. You can read more about conducting a literature review in our academic writing resources.

3. Writing

A literature review discusses published information in a particular subject area. It can be selective or comprehensive in its coverage, and it can stand alone as a

standalone work or form part of an essay, research report or thesis. It is often a key component of the introduction to a paper, and it can help convince an audience that there is a gap in knowledge which your research will fill.

A Literature Review is not just a summary, but a [NRS 493 Literature Review](#) that combines new and old interpretations, and it often traces the intellectual progression of a field. It establishes you as an expert on your topic, and it is a way of joining an ongoing conversation that crosses continents, centuries and subject areas.

You can partially draft your Literature Review as you are doing your research by creating an annotated bibliography. This allows you to start with a clear sense of what has been written already, and it gives you an opportunity to assess the quality and relevance of each publication.

4. Revising

As you write your literature review, you will most likely need to revise it several times. This is because new research findings are constantly published and need to be incorporated into the existing body of knowledge. Also, new ideas emerge from your own reading that might challenge or complement established perspectives on your topic.

Whether your literature review is embedded in another paper or it stands as a separate paper, it must be revised to meet the requirements of your assignment and to present an authoritative argument. It must demonstrate that you have immersed yourself in the field, [bha fpx 4008 assessment 2](#) the existing publications thoroughly. It must also show that you have joined the academic conversation by establishing that your topic is relevant to the subject area.

For a Literature Review that is part of a paper, such as a dissertation or research article, you will need to show your audience how your study contributes to the ongoing dialogue. Specifically, you will need to highlight the gap in knowledge that your research aims to fill.