

LITERATURE REVIEW

Key Points

- Department of Nursing - Graduate Program
- Nursing Educational Support Program (ESP)
- WPUNJ - University Hall room 214/220
- July 2017

WHAT IS... "THE LITERATURE"



- Definition

The Literature is

a collection of all scholarly writings on a topic

peer review articles, books, professional meetings etc.

WHAT IS A ... “LITERATURE REVIEW”

A literature Review is made up of

- Major works
- Other later works
- And it is evolving



Goal:

- Find loose ends or a gap in a topic
- and figure out what needs to be done next

WHAT A LITERATURE REVIEW IS NOT

- A Literature Review is
 - NOT merely a summary of articles on the topic
 - NOT a book report



HOW TO BEGIN ⁵

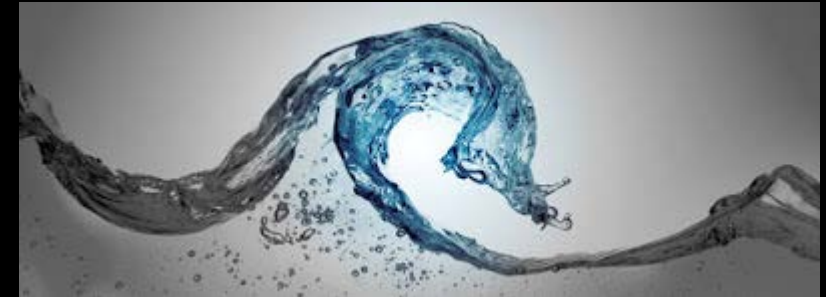
- Collect and read all the relevant papers on the topic
- Organize the articles by the key concepts
- Make notes of each article
 - Describe
 - Summarize outcomes
 - Compare and Contrast key points/concepts
 - Look for relationships
- Create an Outline of major concepts i.e.
 - Knowledge of nurses
 - Attitudes of nurses
 - Outcome of study
- Begin writing following the outline of concepts you created



FORMAT FOR EACH ARTICLE

Include these points in the literature review for each article

- Purpose
- Hypothesis
- Population: sample size and describe subjects
- Tool used and what was measured
- Major results – outcomes
- May compare and contrast other articles
- End paragraph(s) Draw a conclusion describing the gap and how your study will contribute



Remember: this is a fluid and dynamic section – each paragraph should have an easy reading flow



SAMPLE

PARAGRAPHS MAY BE FOCUSED ON ONE STUDY OR
A FEW STUDIES MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE SAME PARAGRAPH

- “Many authors have concluded nurses need to gain more knowledge in pain management. Smith (2017) studied 325 nurses ... using the ... tool. The purpose of the study was... Major conclusions included...

Jones (2016) studied 200 nurses ... using the ... tool. The major conclusion was

White and Black (2017) also ...

- Although the authors concluded pain knowledge was lacking, they differed in ...”

TEST YOURSELF

1. Should you think of the Literature Review, as a summary of articles?
2. Does the LR contain all of the literature on the topic?
3. Should all articles you read be included in the Reference list?
4. Should you organize the LR in the sequence in which you read the articles?
5. Should you predict that the reader will conclude on their own, what the gap is?
6. Should the Literature Review compare and contrast key points?
7. Will your hypothesis be developed and come out of your LR?
8. Are you ready to begin?



ANSWERS

1. Should you think of the Literature Review, as a summary of articles? (N-more than summary)
2. Does the LR contain all of the literature on the topic? (N - only relevant literature)
3. Should all articles you read be included in the Reference list? (N – only those cited in the text)
4. Should you organize the LR in the sequence in which you read the articles? (N – use concept outline)
5. Should you predict that the reader will conclude on their own, what the gap is? (N – you need to say it)
6. Should the Literature Review compare and contrast key points (Y)
7. Will your hypothesis be developed and come out of your LR? (Y)
8. Are you ready to begin? (Y)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/tutorials/litreview/>
- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/666/01/>
- <http://guides.library.vcu.edu/lit-review>
- <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/literature-review>

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM WPUNJ – GRADUATE NURSING

- Further assistance may be found at the Educational Support Program (ESP)
- For an appointment contact
 - Renee F. Pevour MS RN
 - pevourr@wpunj.edu
 - 973-720-3516
 - University Hall room 214/220