



Literature Review Common Questions

Writing Center Hours: 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM M-Th,
8:30 AM- 4:30 PM F, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM S-S
Email: okc.tutoring@okstate.edu
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Definition: A literature review is essentially a research paper focusing on secondary sources. However, most professors require this essay to be a starting place for essay 4, The Empirical Study. So it is important that you select a topic that will work for both essays.

Common Questions:

Question: *What do I write about?*

Answer: Your job is to conduct research over a chosen topic, describe what current research suggests about your topic, and explore what research still needs to be done.

Question: *How do I start?*

Answer: Begin by conducting the research over your topic. Then determine common answers, and establish what is not answered in your research.

Question: *How do I end it?*

Answer: A good way to end is by summarizing your main points (What did the authors do well, and what did they not do well?) and restating your overall response to the research question.

Question: *How do I compare rhetorical features across articles?*

Answer: This comes down to opinion. Do YOU think that the author effectively made their point, or do you think that there was a better way that they could have gone about it? Which



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author had better use of each rhetorical feature you are analyzing?

Question: *What do I do in the Literature Review section of my essay?*

Answer: Analyze each resource and its answer to your research topic. What is done well in the sources? Briefly summarize their answer to your question.

Question: *What do I do in the “Further Research Needed” section of my essay?*

Answer: What answer was missing from your research? What lingering questions do you still have after conducting your research? Why can you not fully answer the question?

Question: *What if my essay isn't long enough?*

Answer: Quotes, examples, reasons - oh my! Check to make sure that you clearly explain your reasoning for each point of the essay. If you have and it still isn't long enough, try adding some quotes and examples to further illustrate your point.