

Literature Review Workshop



I. MECHANICAL ITEMS

Check for:

- Page numbers
- A descriptive title, not just "Literature Review"
(e.g. Caffeine Consumption and Pancreatic Cancer: Literature Review)
- Double spacing
- Wide margins
- Spelling, punctuation, typos
- A uniform and clear citation style
- A clear and readable list of items in the "Literature Cited"
 - the publication date appears in all entries
 - book titles are underlined and article titles appear in quotes, journal titles are underlined or are in italics
 - volume, number and pages listed for articles
 - no references to individual pages (those would appear in footnotes, if you had any)

II. ORGANIZATION

- Is the material properly introduced? (One or two lines that orient the reader, not a formal Introduction.)
- Does the material develop clearly and logically to give the reader a sense of direction and of argument?
- Is it clear why the material is being cited. In other words, does the author place his/her citations in some kind of context?
- Does the piece work toward some kind of clearly articulated perspective about what remains to be done in the field?
- Does the material work to provide a good justification or rationale for continued work in the field? (i.e. Is it persuasive?) Remember that some of these are straight justifications & rationales.

III. STYLE

- Rate the "readability" of the piece, indicating "highly readable" by 10 and "extremely confusing" by 1.
- Is the writing comfortable with itself... with you?
- Do the sentences follow logically from one another?
- Are the sentences long enough or are they: a.) too short; b.) choppy; c.) telegraphic?
- Are the sentences too long? Do they run on in an uncoordinated and confusing way?
- Do the citation sentence types vary? Does the author work the citations into an argument that makes sense of them?

IV. AUTHORITY

- Does the Lit. Review give you confidence in the author's mastery of the material?
- Do the citations seem strong? Do they give you confidence in the validity and importance of the work that you expect will be proposed?
- Do any citations seem inappropriate? (Perhaps because they don't "belong" or they've been misinterpreted or they're ambiguous.)

Assignment

Prepare a two-three page literature review of the topic you have chosen to pursue as a grant proposal. You should have at least 4 non-web citations and, if possible, as many as ten. The lead-in to the literature review is a brief introduction (though not necessarily formally labeled or designated), that leads your reader into the specific subject and problem that you're proposing to investigate.

Due: Friday, Nov. 8th