

PSYC1106 – GUIDELINES FOR PSYCHOLOGY LITERATURE REVIEW ASSIGNMENT: THE TERM PAPER

What is a Literature Review?

A literature review is a type of essay that summarizes all the literature one can find on a given topic. Of course, your short review cannot include all the relevant literature, so try to find the most important articles. Your literature review should contain an introduction, a body (if there are subheadings within this section that make sense please insert them), a conclusion, and a reference page. Do **not** include an abstract in your paper.

A well written review does more than list off the findings of the articles you've selected. You should pick four or five main points about your topic, then present the empirical evidence from the literature that supports (or refutes) those main points. Your contribution to this paper is the wording and organization; the content is supplied by the articles you select. The format of the paper should be that of the American Psychological Association (APA), 6th Edition.

Introduction - "Say what you're going to say."

The introduction of a literature review serves the same purpose as an introduction in any other type of paper or essay. The introduction should introduce your reader to the topic you will be exploring further in the body of your literature review. It's main purpose is to provide an outline of the issues you'll be discussing in the body.

Body of Literature Review - "Say it"

The body of your literature review should summarize the studies conducted on your topic. It should follow the basic format of "point-proof", where the point is a general issue about your topic, and the proof is a description of the study that supports or refutes that point. This proof should outline what was done in the study (i.e. the methods used), describe the subjects, provide the relevant results (in general terms, not the statistics), and indicate how those results relate back to the opening point of the paragraph. Present one idea or issue at a time, followed by a description of one study and the results that support that idea. Remember to reference all material appropriately. Do not use direct quotations; paraphrase all the information.

The relevant information is usually found in the methods and results sections; however, being in first year, some students may find this information confusing. If so, similar information, more clearly explained, may be found in the abstract, introduction, and discussion sections. If you use these sections, make sure you focus on the original material of the authors, and not the third-party literature they discuss.

Conclusion - "Say what you said"

The conclusion should also be similar to a conclusion or discussion section of any essay or paper. It should contain a summary of the body of your literature review, highlighting what were, in your opinion, the most important findings described in your paper. No new material should be presented in the conclusion. It should be a more detailed version of the introduction.

Reference Page

The reference page contains a list of the sources of information you cited in your paper. Note that it is essential that every in-text citation is on the reference page and that every reference on the reference page is cited in the text of the paper. Failure to do so is plagiarism, and will be treated as such. You may feel as though every sentence has a citation, which is as it should be. As stated above, the authors of the articles you present provide the content, you provide the wording and organization of the information. Note, the Reference page, in-text citations, and text of the paper must follow **APA format**. Below are examples of the standard reference format, but it is important that you see the *APA Publication Manual (6th Edition)* for further details.

Example of a reference page entry:

Welner, S. A., Laplante, P., St.Pierre, J.A., & Alonso, R. (1994). Excitatory and inhibitory amino acids in the cerebral cortex of nucleus basalis magnocellularis lesioned rats. *Neuroscience Letters*, 172, 89-92.

Examples of an in-text citation:

Welner, Laplante, St.Pierre, and Alonso (1994) found ...
Another study found ... (Welner et al., 1994).

Example Reviews and Papers

You can find examples of literature reviews in many journals. It is important to go to the library and study one, so you know what is expected. To do this, simply restrict your search criteria to include only review articles. Find a short review paper on any psychological topic and look it over. There are also sample term papers on reserve in the library.

American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual (6th Edition)

The literature review must be done in APA format. You can find the APA Publication Manual in the library's reference section. If you plan to continue taking psychology courses, it is recommended that you buy a copy. Within the APA manual you can find the proper way to cite, reference, and organize your review paper. Please note that all of the literature review must be in APA format, including the title page, the headers, the reference section, the organization of the literature review, and the citations. It is also important to know that not all academic journals follow APA format, so ensure that you follow the *APA Publication Manual* and not the format given by a journal.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Be sure you understand that if you use someone else's words in your paper, you must put them inside quotation marks and reference them (Note direct quotations should not be used in this paper; paraphrase & reference all information). Buying or otherwise obtaining someone else's paper and submitting it as your own work is justification for being expelled from the university. It is easier than most people think for a professor to detect plagiarism, and although some students get away with it occasionally, it is a very dangerous chance to take, for the consequences are severe.

Preparing Your Term Paper Assignment

Deadlines

You are encouraged to hand things in before the deadline; early submissions will always be accepted. The term paper must be submitted *in person* to Ken or Stephanie. This means handing the paper to us directly. If you need to have someone else hand it in for you, that is fine. Make sure that someone can be trusted.

Library Session: see Lab Schedule handout
Term Paper: Monday, October 31, 2011 6:00pm

We do ***not*** accept submissions by email, snail-mail, or in/under office doors. No exceptions are made to this rule. Attempts to make such submissions will have two results: 1) a grade of zero assigned automatically to your term paper, 2) your paper will be thrown in the garbage, and 3) a nasty email may be sent to you from Stephanie to let you know this has happened.

Papers submitted (in person) after the deadline will be penalized 1 full mark per day late (up to a maximum of 10). No special office hours will be provided; you'll have to track us down before class begins. Interrupting a class in progress will be met with a rude, and angry response. This late period will commence at 6:00 pm on Monday, October 31st. Stephanie and Ken are NOT available after that time – so get your paper in before her or Ken's classes that day.

Note: Stephanie teaches at 10:30am and 3:30pm in A222G; Ken teaches at 8:30am in B200.

Library Session

The library session is mandatory – if you skip it, you will automatically receive a grade of zero (0) on your term paper, and you will not be permitted to submit a term paper in Psyc1106. Make sure you sign the class list, to confirm your attendance at the session. This is the only evidence of your attendance that will be accepted, so failing to sign the list will result in a grade of zero on your term paper. You should come prepared with questions, having tried the on-line search tools described in lecture.

If you know in advance that you cannot make your scheduled Library Session, please immediately contact Stephanie by email (do NOT wait to see her, as it will be too late). She will attempt to arrange your attendance at another session. Attending alternate library sessions is by permission only; failing to get permission or to contact her before the sessions are completed, will result in a grade of zero on your term paper.

If you miss your library session for a valid, documented reason (e.g. illness with a doctor's note), immediately contact Stephanie by email (do NOT wait to see her, as it will be too late). Again, she will try to get you into an appropriate session. No extra sessions will be booked, so do not leave this to the last minute.

Term Paper Requirements

Your paper should be based on a minimum of six (6) primary source, peer-reviewed journal articles. These must be listed in APA 6th edition format. See the example Reference Page on the lab website. The body of your paper should not exceed 5 pages of double-spaced text, not

including the title page and reference page. The title page should be numbered as page 1, and the reference page may begin as page numbered 7 (your references should be double-spaced, so could be multiple pages). The entire paper must be formatted in APA style, 6th edition, but do not include an abstract. A copy of the APA Publication Manual is available in the library.

All information included in the paper must be in your own words. That is, make sure you paraphrase everything; there should be no quotations used in this assignment. The point of the exercise is to practice presenting scientific information in your own words, and to learn APA formatting.

The protocol for marking is posted on the Website for this course. Basically it is...

- Up to 2 marks for correct APA format, especially referencing
- Up to 4 marks for technical quality of presentation
- Up to 4 marks for quality of the body of report

A sample term paper will be on reserve at the library. You may review it, but not sign it out. A sample title page, and reference page will be placed on the lab website.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Be sure you understand that if you use someone else's words in your paper, you must put them inside quotation marks and reference them (Note direct quotations should not be used in this paper; paraphrase & reference all information). Buying or otherwise obtaining someone else's paper and submitting it as your own work is justification for being expelled from the university. It is easier than most people think for a professor to detect plagiarism, and although some students get away with it occasionally, it is a very dangerous chance to take, for the consequences are severe.

Possible Term Paper Topics

If you wish to use a topic not on this list, see the instructor to ensure it is an appropriate topic. Before making your choice, you should do some research to learn a bit about the topics, and thus you can make an informed choice.

These are very broad topics. Use your initial research to narrow your focus.

Accentuation Theory
Agoraphobia
Agraphia
Animal intelligence (measuring)
Anorexia Nervosa
Anterograde amnesia
Anti-depressants
Apophenia
Artificial Intelligence
Asperger's Syndrome
Associative Learning
Attention Deficit Disorder
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Auditory Processing in the Brain
Autism
Basal Ganglia Function
Binocular vision
Bipolar Disorder
Blind sight
Body Image
Bonding
Brain (or neural) Plasticity
Broca's Area
Bulimia
Chromosomal disorders
Circadian Rhythms
Classical Conditioning
Cognitive Dissonance
Creativity And Mental Illness
Declarative Memory
Dementia (non-Alzheimer's)
Depression
Dissociative Disorders
Divided Attention
Dopamine Function
Down Syndrome
Dyslexia
Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)
Endorphins
Epilepsy

Episodic Memory
Extroversion–Introversion
Explicit Memory
Face recognition
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
Fragile X Syndrome
Frontal Lobe's Role In Reasoning
Forer effect (a.k.a. Barnum effect)
GABA
Gender Identity
Gender Differences in Brain
Global/local processing
Grieving
Group think
Heightened Arousal
Hippocampus and Memory
Hypnotherapy
Hypothalamus and Consummatory Behaviour
Implicit Memory
Inhibition of Return
Insomnia
Intelligence Inheritability
Intelligence Quotient (IQ) Reliability
Jealousy
Jet-lag
Joint Attention In Infant Development
Just Noticeable Difference (difference thresholds)
Kin Selection In Evolution
Kleptomania
Language Acquisition and Development
Latent Learning
Learned Helplessness
Lithium Treatment
Long Term Memory And Ageing
Mania
Migraine
Multiple Personality Disorder
Munchausen's Syndrome
Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy
Music Perception
Narcissistic Personality Disorder
Narcolepsy
Neurotic Depression
Neurotransmitters (pick a specific one)
Negative Priming
Nonverbal Communication
Object recognition

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
Occipital Lobe Function
Operant Conditioning In Animal Training
Panic Disorder
Paranoia
Pareidolia
Parietal Lobe Function
Perception Of Colour
Personality Disorders
Phantom-Limb Pain &/or Perception
Phobias (pick a specific phobia)
Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
Priming
Prosopagnosia (inability to recognize faces)
Psychoactive Drugs
Qualitative Method Of Data Collection
Rapid Eye Movement
Reinforcement Schedules
Retrograde Amnesia
Rosenthal effect (or Pygmalion effect)
Schizophrenia
Selective Attention
Sleep Cycles
Sleep Deprivation
Sociobiology
Somatosensory System
Spatial Processing in the brain
Split Brain Studies
Stroop Effect
Suicide
Synesthesia
Taste Perception
Temporal Lobe Function
Thalamus And Pain Perception
Traumatic Brain Injury
Verbal Communication
Visual Illusions
Visual Perception Of Movement
Visual Perception of Objects
WAIS-R
Wernicke's Aphasia
Working Memory
Y Chromosome
Young Adulthood As Defined By Erik Erikson
Zone Of Proximal Development