

## **Literature Review**

ENGL 108: Rhetorics of Science and Medicine

A literature review is a type of report where you compile sources to argue for general trends and commonalities in research. It can exist as both a stand-alone document or as a facet of a larger research project. Proposing a large project will often require an accompanying literature review as a way to figure out your own contribution to the field. Literature reviews allow you to get a bird's eye view of your subject as they provide a groundwork to compare and contrast general trends within a subject.

That's exactly what you'll be doing here. In order to complete the rest of this semester's projects, you will select a topic in your major field of study relating to science or medicine (broadly conceived). You will find **at least 8 sources** that are relevant to the way your field has previously discussed or researched this topic. **At least two of those sources should be academic**, but you may use as many academic sources as you would like. You are welcome to use your article from your rhetorical analysis, but it is not necessary to use it—or even to stick to the same topic!

You will organize your sources in a way that makes sense to you—this could be an explanation sorted by chronology, by trends within the field, by theme, or even by methodology. Whatever method of organization you choose, you should be consistent. From there, you will explain the literature (aka your sources), summarizing and synthesizing as needed to explain to your reader what topics have been investigated and discussed within your field. This will include analyzing the similarities between topics and observing the importance of each source to the field's conversation. Finally, your conclusion should discuss the overall observations you've made and should suggest where further research could proceed.

A note: please make sure that you select a topic that genuinely interests you, as you will be continuing to work on that topic for both the research paper and the multimodal project. Research is genuinely much more interesting and fun when it's something you're invested in!

### **Requirements**

**Length:** 750-1000 words (3-4 pages)

**Format:** Double spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font, 1" margins. APA citations and style.

**Ingredients of a strong literature review:** a central question or topic, thorough synthesis of sources, appropriate summarization, relevant academic and/or popular sources, a good balance of quotation and paraphrase, proper citations, specificity

### **Due Dates**

**Level 1 draft:** A brief explanation of your topic (at least a sentence, no more than 250 words) and a list of at least 4 sources are both due Monday 2/22 by 11:59 pm.

**Peer review:** Bring a draft to class in week 8 (Monday 3/8, Wednesday 3/10, or Friday 3/12). You will be paired with another student or two and will trade papers and make comments on them.

**Final draft:** Monday 3/15 by 11:59 pm. Late papers will be penalized as per the syllabus. After your literature reviews are uploaded, I will grade them and give feedback on Brightspace. Your literature review reflection will be due at the same time.

**This project is worth 15% of your grade.**

### **Reflection**

It is important to reflect on your writing so you know what you did well, what you need to improve on, and how your writing process itself works. This is a form of metacognition—thinking about thinking—that helps you improve as a writer and as a learner. You'll also have to do self-evaluation in your careers in forms such as annual reviews, so it's good practice to think about how to write and reflect on your own work.

In 250-500 words, answer the following questions about the rhetorical analysis:

- What made you pick your topic? What surprised you as you researched it?
- What are you proud of in your lit review? If you had another week to work on it, what would you change?
- Describe your writing and revision process as you completed this assignment. What did you revise and why? How did writing this assignment compare to writing assignments in other college classes or in high school? What did you do differently? Why?
- How might this assignment benefit you outside of this class? Outside of school?

This assignment is worth 10 points and will be graded as a microassignment.

### **Rubric**

    /15 Analysis: You provide analysis for your evidence, explaining why it is relevant or how it is functioning. Your analyses go beyond surface-level observations.

    /5 Audience awareness: You write for an audience of your peers. You explain any jargon.

    /10 Citations: You include citations. Your citations are formatted correctly in APA format. You include a references page that includes all of your sources.

    /10 Cohesion: Your paper argues for trends and similarities within a specific topic. You stay focused on this topic throughout the paper. Extraneous or unrelated information is not included.

    /15 Evidence: You reference specific material from your sources. You pick out evidence that is compelling and relates to the topic at hand.

    /5 Grammar, proofreading, and formatting: Your paper is proofread and free of any grammatical errors that affect readability.

    /5 Organization and transitions: Your paper makes sense. It is easy to follow your claims through your paper.

\_\_\_/5 Sources: You include the appropriate number of sources. Your sources are all relevant to the topic at hand.

\_\_\_/15 Summary: Your summaries are brief. You provide only necessary information.

\_\_\_/15 Synthesis: You synthesize various scholars' research together. You avoid relying too heavily on any one source and instead use a variety of sources to support your argument.

\_\_\_/100 Total