

LITERATURE REVIEW GUIDELINES

Due: December 2/3

Approved by: Magnet Research Panel

Credibility Approval: You are required to have another teacher or adult community member with credentials in your research field to review and approve your research plan. This could be your potential Mentor.

Literature Review General Requirements

1. Minimum of 12 pages in length
2. Typed, double-spaced, 12 pt type size, Times New Roman font
3. Written in complete sentences with coherent paragraphs organized in a logical manner
4. Bibliography – minimum of 8 primary literature citations using APA style
5. Journals Accessed via Internet – you must give the journal citation together with the website where you accessed the journal

Components of the Literature Review

1. **TITLE** that gives the reader a good indication of the scope of your study.
2. **RESEARCH QUESTION**
3. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION** that convinces the reader that you have enough knowledge of the field to successfully carry out a study of your chosen topic. The background information should include basic information related to your topic and a brief review of similar work that has been done in the past.
4. **HYPOTHESIS** – need the following:
 - a. clearly stated expected outcome that you want to test
 - b. specific independent variable and dependent variable
 - i. for example, “do males or females have the highest incidence of eating disorders?”
 - ii. In this case, the independent variable is sex and the dependent variable is the incidence of eating disorders
 - c. For a hypothesis, justify your expected outcome
 - i. females will have a higher incidence of eating disorders than males because females generally care about their appearance more than males do
 - d. Support your hypothesis with background research by citing the studies that contributed to the hypothesis

5. METHODS

- a. Explain in detail how you will collect information
- b. Methods used to collect your own data relevant to answer your question or test your hypothesis
- c. If you are using a questionnaire or survey, you must include:
 - i. a copy with the questions you will ask
 - ii. how the survey instrument will be evaluated
 - iii. how you will obtain respondents in an unbiased fashion.
- d. If you are conducting an experiment, you must provide:
 - i. details of your experimental methods
 - ii. materials you will use
- e. If you are conducting an analysis of secondary data you must provide the names of the specific database which contain your data

6. JUSTIFICATION for your research must be provided.

- a. How will it add to the existing body of knowledge in your chosen field of study?
- b. How is your research relevant to **International Studies**?

7. PROPOSED BUDGET – Science studies

- a. Consider costs related to copying surveys
- b. Buying experimental material (like potting soil, pots, lumber, etc)
- c. Travel costs to go to the store, library, meetings with mentors, workshops related to your topic, etc
- d. Itemize your proposed costs to the best of your ability.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- a. Include all sources cited in your plan.
- b. Do NOT include sources you consulted but did not cite.
- c. See the handout “Literature Citations”.

9. LOGBOOK which must include, at a minimum:

- a. Notes taken from the sources you cited in your bibliography
- b. Outline of your planned study
- c. Lists of proposed materials and methods for your research
- d. Anytime you take notes from any source, you **MUST** include complete citation information with those notes

10. Appendix

- a. Table of contents
- b. Survey and key to evaluate
- c. Questionnaire
- d. Pictures
- e. Statistical Tests

Remember that you are magnet students. Your Literature Review need to reflect that.