

ACADEMIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

A literature review is an account of what has been published on a topic by accredited scholars and researchers. Occasionally you will be asked to write one as a separate assignment (sometimes in the form of an annotated bibliography, but more often it is part of the introduction to an essay, research report, or thesis. In writing the literature review, your purpose is to convey to your reader what knowledge and ideas have been established on a topic, and what their strengths and weaknesses are. **For this assignment, you will focus on a single published source, and provide a summary and analysis of the author's work.** This will help you moving forward as you review larger numbers of sources and must analyze the key details of each source. Besides enlarging your knowledge about the topic, writing a literature review allows you to gain skills in the ability to scan the literature efficiently, using manual or computerized methods, to identify a set of useful articles and books; and critically evaluate the validity of arguments presented by scholarly works.

Instructions

1. Go to <https://www.biknotes.com/journals>. Peruse the journal articles and choose one from among them.
2. Request approval from the teacher for the article you have chosen via email before you begin.
3. Title the assignment "Academic Literature Review".
4. Follow the directions below when citing the article and answering the questions.

Cite the article you have chosen at the top of your paper (below the title) using MLA format:

Cite the author and title of the article as you normally would. Then, put the title of the journal in italics. Include the volume number ("vol.") and issue number ("no.") when possible, separated by commas. Add the year and page numbers. Finally, provide the URL and the date you accessed the article. See example below:

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume, Issue, Year, pages, URL, Access date.

Appiah, Kwame Anthony. "Race in the Modern World: The Problem of the Color Line." *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 94, no. 2, 2015, pp. 1-8, https://d56d57b9-067b-450c-8738-a6ea14493c77.filesusr.com/ugd/b8b6dc_b05ae973182f4ac38a1044d11a7bd0f4.pdf. Accessed 18 Sep. 2016.

In complete sentences using academic language, answer all of the following questions on a Word document using these formatting parameters: 2 to 2.5 pages (line spacing 1.5), Times New Roman 12-point font, and 0.5 inch margins (include the questions on your completed document):

1. What is the author's thesis? (What was the key question in the mind of the author when they wrote the article?)
(25 POINTS)
2. What evidence and arguments does the author use to support their conclusions and prove their thesis?
(25 POINTS)
3. What are the implications of rejecting the author's thesis? (What is the contrary point of view?)
(25 POINTS)

TOTAL: 75 POINTS

Questions Rubric & Scoring

Each question is worth 25 points, and are evaluated using the following standards of thought:

Clarity: Could you elaborate further? Could you give me an example? Could you illustrate what you mean?

Accuracy: How could we check on that? How could we find out if that's true? How could we verify or test that?

Precision: Could you be more specific? Could you give me more details? Could you be more exact?

Relevance: How does that relate to the problem? How does that bear on the question? How does that help us with the issue?

Depth: What factors make this a difficult problem? What are some of the complexities of the question? What are some of the difficulties we need to deal with?

Breadth Do we need to look at this from another perspective? Do we need to consider another point of view? Do we need to look at this in other ways?

Logic: Does all of this make sense together? Does your first paragraph fit in with your last? Does what you say follow from the evidence?

Significance: Is this the most important problem to consider? Is this the central idea to focus on? Which of these facts are most important?

Fairness: Do I have any vested interest in this issue? Am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others?

Illustration

On a separate 8.5 x 11 inch piece of paper, create a full-page visual representation of the key idea(s) that the article is trying to communicate. Use color and creativity. It must be drawn by your own hand (no digital graphics), and not copied from an existing source.

Illustration Rubric & Scoring

Context: Does the illustration relate to the article in a way that deepens the reader's understanding of the article?

(10 POINTS)

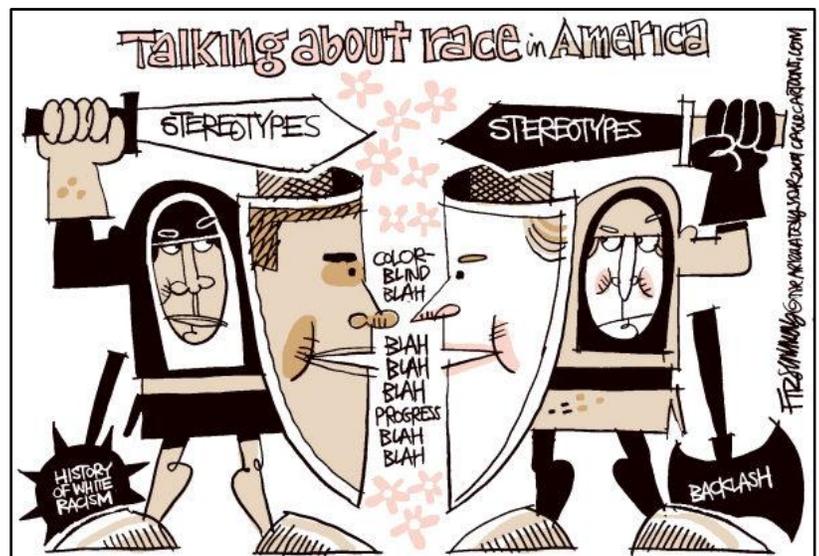
Care: Does the illustration appear to be the result of great effort on the part of the student?

(10 POINTS)

Color: Does the illustration use at least 3 colors?

(5 POINTS)

TOTAL: 25 POINTS



THIS ASSIGNMENT IS WORTH A TOTAL OF 100 POINTS:
75 POINTS – Questions (25 each)
25 POINTS – Illustration

NOTE: The article you choose must be approved before you begin the assignment.