



Literature Review: Academic Tone

A literature review summarizes the relevant research on a topic. It should relate to the topic of your paper and clarify how your research will add to the ideas expressed by other scholars.

The focus of a literature review is on drawing conclusions about the findings of other researchers. Writing about what *scholars have said* about a topic is different from *writing about the topic*. Below are some sample ways you can analyze the ideas of others:

Developments of Perspectives over Time:

Originally, Kanicov (2009) proposed...

Perspectives began to change when Jamison (1999) discovered that...

In the 1990s, it was common for scholars to hold this position, but since 2000...

Themes/Common Perspectives:

The most common recommendation in reports on this topic is...

Some scholars oppose the argument proposed by Little (2004) because...

A perspective frequently held by scholars studying this topic is...

Comparisons/Contrasts:

Johnson (2010) has taken this idea further by...

Gordon (2014) opposed this position because...

Many researchers agree with the conclusions of Jackson (2010), but a few stipulate that...

Strengths/Weaknesses:

A strength of Smith's (2009) argument is...

A drawback in Thoren's (2016) method is...

The perspectives of Rose (2009) and Whyte (2011) have succeeded in...

Gaps:

Wong's (2014) study did not go as far as to discuss...

Despite many scholars discussing this topic, none have yet addressed the issue of...

Dufferin (2011) raised a question about...

