

Conceptual Framework Format for Literature Review

1. Introduction

Briefly introduce the research topic and its context. Clearly state the purpose of the conceptual framework and its relevance to the literature review.

2. Review of Key Concepts

Summarize the main theories, models, and definitions found in the literature concerning the research topic.

- **Concept 1:** Description
- **Concept 2:** Description
- **Concept 3:** Description

3. Relationships among Concepts

Explain how the different concepts from the literature connect with each other. Identify relationships, hierarchies, or causal links between them.

4. Visual Representation

Provide a schematic diagram or flowchart to illustrate the conceptual framework. (A stylized example table is shown below; for actual papers, insert diagrams/images as needed.)

Concept	Related Theory/Model	Relationship	Supporting Authors
Independent Variable A	Theory X	Direct effect on Dependent Variable	Smith (2020); Lee (2018)
Mediating Variable B	Model Y	Mediates relationship between A & C	Johnson (2019)
Dependent Variable C	Theory Z	Outcome	Brown (2021)

5. Application to Research Questions

Discuss how the conceptual framework informs or guides the formulation of research questions, hypotheses, or objectives.

6. Summary

Conclude by synthesizing how the conceptual framework integrates the literature and supports the focus of the review.

Important Notes for Conceptual Frameworks in Literature Reviews:

- Ensure the framework is informed directly by published literature, not assumptions.
- Clearly define and reference all key concepts and variables.

- Illustrate logical connections and gaps found in the literature.
- Use diagrams or tables to enhance clarity and reader understanding.
- Align the conceptual framework with your research aims and questions.