

Critical Literature Review Format

1. Introduction

Introduce the topic and context of the literature review. Clearly state the objectives, significance, and focus of the review. Outline the specific research questions or problems addressed.

2. Methodology

Describe the criteria and methods used for selecting and analyzing the literature, including search terms, databases, inclusion/exclusion criteria, and time frame covered.

3. Thematic Overview

Organize the body of the review into key themes, topics, or research trends relevant to the field. Present the main findings from various studies, grouping similar ideas together.

- **Theme/Topic 1:** Summary of findings, arguments, and methodologies used by previous authors.
- **Theme/Topic 2:** Critical comparison and contrast of results and perspectives.
- **Theme/Topic 3:** Identification of prevailing patterns, debates, or gaps.

4. Critical Analysis

Provide a critical assessment of the literature. Evaluate the strengths, limitations, and credibility of the studies reviewed. Discuss biases, inconsistencies, and methodological issues. Consider how different authors interpret evidence or build arguments.

5. Synthesis and Discussion

Synthesize the findings and analyses, highlighting overall insights, interconnections, and broader implications for the field. Identify knowledge gaps and unresolved questions. Suggest areas for future research.

6. Conclusion

Summarize the key points and critical insights from the review. Emphasize the relevance of your evaluation to the topic or research problem. Restate any recommendations or implications.

7. References

List all scholarly sources cited, formatted in a consistent academic citation style (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago).

Important Notes:

- Maintain an objective, scholarly tone throughout the document.
- Critique sources constructively; support your assertions with evidence.
- Ensure clarity, coherence, and logical organization between sections.
- All sources used must be appropriately cited and referenced.
- Keep focus on relevance to your research question or discipline.

