

EDU 651 Action Research Proposal Stage II

Literature Review Assignments

Due date: Week 9, Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Draft # 2 Literature Review will include a revised version of draft #1 plus a coherent, comprehensive **literature review** of at least 12 sources presented in an integrative and critical fashion, and a revised reference page (only those 12 sources referenced in the paper should be cited), plus a bibliography, maintaining APA style.

Literature Review is a coherent essay of a literature review. It will be a review of the literature directly related to the topic or problem under study, followed by an explanation of how your research question grows out of that review, that is, showing how you identify your own research focus in term of “gap” in previous research. The purpose of the literature review is to know what others have discovered before you begin your investigation of your own, to ground your study in a particular context of what is known about a subject in order to establish a foundation for the topic (or question) being researched.

The purpose of this assignment is to facilitate your abilities to research a topic of study so you can learn to (1) identify and formulate an inquiry question that defines what you’d like to learn, (2) know how to search and locate literature (eg. Journal articles) using library and internet resources; (3) analyze information found in educational journal articles, and (4) synthesize new knowledge into a written literature review and (5) establish context for your inquiries.

Assignment Description:

For this assignment you are asked to complete a literature review on an educational topic of your choice. You are asked to locate at least 12 (8+4) educational journal articles on your topic and write a 5 -6 page literature review on the articles you’ve selected.

Steps to complete your literature review:

1. Choose an educational topic that you are interested in studying (you’ve done this in you Introduction draft).
2. Formulate an inquiry question that specifically describes what would like to know about your educational topic (you’ve done this in you Introduction draft, but you can always refine your inquiry questions after you know more about your area through reading the literature).
3. Go to the library to search for and locate journals that include your topic’s information (You learned how to do this during your library time).
4. Find articles, read the abstracts and skim the articles to determine if they correspond well to your topic AND inquiry question.
5. Select at least 12 journal articles and photocopy them for your project.
6. Read your articles and begin to sort and classify them *according to their findings*

(you can use the Literature Review Memory Card).

7. Organize your articles by sorting and classifying their findings in a meaningful way, always considering your original topic and inquiry question.
8. Write an outline for your literature review.
9. Write your review.
10. Revise your review.

Outline for writing your literature review:

1. *Introduction* (without this heading)

Write an introduction paragraph for your review. This paragraph

- a. states the topic and inquiry questions for this review
- b. tells the reader specific information on how many articles you reviewed and how you sorted the articles into common themes based on findings (results).

2. *Body* (without this heading)

Before you begin this section, be sure that you have sorted your articles into different themes based on the articles' *findings* (*sometimes called results*). After you sort your articles, it is important to give your sorted groups a descriptive name. The names of the sorted articles will become your headings for each of the paragraphs that you write in the body of your review. The body of your literature review will include,

- a. Theme 1: a paragraph or several paragraphs that describe the first theme that you identified and compare, contrast and/or connect the articles you've selected.
- b. Theme 2: a paragraph or several paragraphs that describes the second theme that you identified and compare, contrast and/or connect the articles you've selected.
- d. Theme 3: a paragraph or several paragraphs that describes the third theme that you identified and compare, contrast and/or connect the articles you've selected.

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3 *Summary*

This is the last paragraph of your literature review. In this paragraph, it is important to briefly summarize the main findings from the articles that you reviewed and to point out how your inquiry questions were answered or not answered, what the gap is (what if my questions are all answered – you then need to identify new inquiries so that you will contribute to the field)..

4. *References*

This is the last pages of your review. It serves as a listing of all references that you mentioned in your paper (both draft 1 and draft 2). Please make sure that only references cited in your drafts will be listed here. Other references that you earlier found/read but not cited will be listed in your bibliography. Please use APA style when completing this list.

5. *Bibliography* (optional)

This is your reference list (those cited in your paper) plus those that you have found/read but are not cited in the paper. Please also use APA style when completing this list and use alphabetical order.

**EDU651 Research Proposal Draft #2: Literature Review
Grading Rubric**

The following chart will be used as a rubric to grade your small-scale literature review:

	Pass		Fail
	Target (15 points)	Acceptable (12 points)	Unacceptable (0 point)
Content	This inquiry question was well established in broader context of an educational topic. (2 pts).	The inquiry question was established in the context of an educational topic (1.8 pts).	The inquiry question was not established in the context of an educational topic.
	At least 12 articles were selected and each specifically related to the initial inquiry question. (2 pts).	At least 10 articles were selected and related to the initial inquiry question (1.8 pts).	A couple of articles were selected; some minimally related to the inquiry question.
	The findings/results of articles were thoughtfully compared, contrasted and/or connected to each other. (2 pts).	The finding of articles were compared, contrasted and/or connected to each other (1.8 pts).	The findings of articles were mentioned with little and or no comparison or connection to each other.
	The conclusion of the review summarized the knowledge found from this review and related the knowledge gain to the inquiry question (2 pts).	The conclusion of the review summarized the knowledge found from this review (1.8 pts).	The conclusion of the review did not summarize the knowledge found from this review.
	The references were cited using APA style (2 pts)	The references were listed (1.8 pts)	The references were not listed
Organization	The review was organized using subheadings. The review was suitably organized considering the contents of the selected articles. (3 pts)	The review was suitably organized considering the contents of the selected articles (1 pts).	The review was minimally organized and writing was difficult to follow throughout.
Mechanics	There were no grammatical, spelling and/or punctuation errors and transitional phrases were used to guide the reader throughout the text (2 pts).	There was an occasional grammatical, spelling and/or punctuation error that did not distract the reader (1 pts).	There were many grammatical, spelling and/or punctuation errors that distracted the reader from the content of the writing.