

Writing With Style

APA Style Made Easy

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Chapter 3

The Introduction Section

The Literature Review Paper

Format

- Start on a new page
- Title of paper centered at the top, with important words capitalized
- Do not label the section itself at all
 - Its location tells the reader what it is

What was done and why

- Should be evident in first 2 paragraphs
- Include
 - Purpose of the study
 - Why is this an important research topic

Hypotheses

- Should be clear
 - Usually in final paragraph(s) of introduction
 - *Hypothesized, predicted, expected*
- Should have a rationale
 - Not a hunch
 - Research- or theory-based prediction

Research question

- Usually present if specific hypothesis is not
- Descriptive study — no direction of effect is predicted
- *describe, explore, assess*

Information about method

- Usually summarized briefly
- Variables defined
- How variables were operationalized

LITERATURE REVIEW

The bulk of the Introduction Section

“Discuss the relevant related literature but do not feel compelled to include an exhaustive historical account.”

APA Manual (2010), p. 28

Organization of lit review

- Author's idea about how the pieces of the puzzle fit together
- Only information from each study that is relevant to a particular point — not a summary of everyone else's work in sequence
- Omit your opinions
- Limit criticism of other authors — treat their work fairly

Format issues

- Past tense to discuss other studies
- Use headings to highlight your organization
- Double-space everywhere — between and within headings

Center and Bold

Subheading Fits Here

Start to write this section here

A subsection here. Write the contents of that section here. Perhaps a paragraph or more.

Another one here. Then write stuff here. And just keep going.

Yet another layer here

And more stuff here.

When the lit review *is* the paper

- Remember that the lit review has a purpose
- Also a reason why it is important to study this topic