



Basics of a Literature Review in Psychology

A literature review in the field of psychology explores multiple research articles, books, or other sources of a chosen topic. It explains the research, providing an overview about the topic, synthesizes the information, and gives a critical evaluation. The main goal is to review the state of the research and topic.

Key Points

- May be a stand alone document or part of a larger research paper
- Goes beyond summary, also synthesizing the research
- Critical analysis of differences in research
- Organizes research into sections
- APA style
- Discusses a focused & precise question or topic
- Research done through PsycINFO database
- Follows an organizational style (e.g. thematic, chronological, methodological)
- Point out gaps in research
- Establish an argument for further inquiry