

Literature Review

WRTG 3030: Environmental Health Science, Policy, and Ethics

General Overview of Research Project:

The major research project for this course consists in the following two components.

Literature Review: demonstrates knowledge of scholarship and contemporary debates relating to your topic, and how your argument fits into and advances the conversation.

Outline: organizes the major ideas your paper, providing a clear blueprint of your argument.

Research Paper: defends a thesis related to your major—via conceptual reasons, descriptive and empirical evidence, and effective logical analysis—on an issue that has some problematic broader social, political, economic, or environmental implication; and satisfies the conventions of research and writing in your discipline.

General Overview of Grading Criteria:

Literature Review	5-7 single-spaced pages Includes <i>at least</i> 10 scholarly sources Constitutes 10% of final course grade
Outline	3-4 single-spaced pages Constitutes 10% of final course grade
Research Paper	15-18 double-spaced pages Constitutes 35% of final course grade

DIRECTIONS FOR LITERATURE REVIEW (ONLY)

11. Find *at least* 10 scholarly (peer-reviewed) sources that relate in some specific fashion to the topic you have chosen and the thesis statement you plan to defend in your term paper.

- Note that sources from CQ Press do not count toward the minimum 10 scholarly sources.
- To determine whether a source is peer-reviewed, look for some of the following cues:
 - ↳ peer-reviewed articles in academic journals will have a volume and issue number on the first page of the article or in the citation—which will be written like Vol. 10, No. 1 or 10 (1).
 - ↳ unless books are self-published (avoid these), all books are peer-reviewed—but you should try to find books published by university presses or respected popular academic presses
 - ↳ university presses are easy to identify: Oxford University Press, Michigan University Press, etc.
 - ↳ some quality popular academic presses include the following (this list is not exhaustive): Hackett, McGraw-Hill, Palgrave Macmillan, Pearson, Penguin, Routledge, Rowman & Littlefield, Sage, Taylor & Francis, Wiley and Sons.

2. You should be able to explain the central claim defended in each source, and to summarize in a couple sentences the central argument—that is, the starting assumptions, the primary reason(s) and/or piece(s) of evidence, and the warrant, all of which support the author’s central claim, and some of which may be implicit in the author’s writing.

- Note, however, that a literature review does not consist in a series of summaries.
- Rather, a literature review should read like a cohesive, organized, thesis-driven paper that explains the state of relevant scholarship on your topic.

- More specifically, the thesis you defend in your literature review should explain the 2-3 key debates or points of agreement among scholars in the existing literature on your topic, and explain who is saying what (and why and how) along these 2-3 divides or overlaps.

In this vein, find ways to group scholars together in helpful ways to understand contemporary debates on your topic. For instance, are there common assumptions some scholars make? Are there similar examples some scholars appeal to? Are there common datasets or historical cases the authors utilize, or are there clear debates over the proper dataset or methodology to use? Are there common theories, frameworks, or principles the authors use to understand the subject matter, or are different theories, frameworks, or principles that scholars adopt in their research?

What gaps in the literature are there: that is, what *haven't* scholars argued yet? How might your argument fill such a gap in our knowledge of your topic?

- Think of your task here as (a) describing the landscape of relevant literature on your topic, and (b) explaining how your argument fits into the contemporary scholarly conversations on your topic: how are you contributing to the discussion?

3. Be selective with your choice of sources.

- Remember that different sources can contribute to your argument in different ways, and so your literature review may well include diverse scholarship on your topic.
- Some sources may provide context for your argument (information, e.g., that could hook your audience—that is, to make your audience interested in your topic). Other sources may provide necessary background information (information, e.g., that helps to define key concepts you're using or assumptions you're making). Some scholarship will speak to relevant descriptive or empirical facts (e.g., case studies or statistics) that motivate your argument—providing evidence to support your central claim. And whereas some sources may present a perspective in opposition to your position (for the counterargument section of your paper), others may offer insight into necessary future research or the implications of the truth of your argument (for the concluding section of your paper).
- Note, however, that your literature review “should discuss only the studies that have a direct bearing on the central focus of your [term paper]” (Knopf 2006: 129)—and you should only discuss those components of a study that are directly relevant to your term paper. This is to say that you only need to include a whole summary of an author's argument (starting assumptions + claim + reasons and evidence + warrant) when you think it is necessary or appropriate to help situate your own argument within the current literature.

4. You must correctly summarize, paraphrase, and/or quote material from your sources, properly and consistently applying the MLA, APA, or Chicago documentation style.

5. You must provide the full citation of each of your 10 sources in a bibliography at the end of your literature review, using some consistent documentation style (e.g., MLA, APA, or Chicago).

6. Helpful references include:

- Jeffrey Knopf, “Doing A Literature Review” reading for helpful tips on how to write your review—see p. 129 specifically.
- Norlin databases: <http://colorado.edu/libraries/research/find-articles-and-databases>.
- JSTOR database: <http://jstor.org/action/showAdvancedSearch?acc=off&wc=on>: provides access to scholarly articles.
- Having trouble accessing/downloading articles online while working off campus? Download VPN software: <http://colorado.edu/oit/services/network-internet-services/vpn>.

Literature Review Grading Rubric

Student Name: _____

WRTG 3030: *Environmental Health Science, Policy, and Ethics*

<i>Specific Requirements</i>	<i>Omitted/ Poor</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>% of Total Earned</i>
Rough Draft (10%): students must submit a <u>full</u> rough draft by the due date (thorough outlines, detailed partial drafts, drafts with no citations do <u>not</u> count as complete rough drafts).	✓	✓	✓	✓	%
Rough Draft Peer Review (10%): students must participate in the peer-review workshop and complete the questionnaire provided. Your grade on this section will be based on the quality of the comments you as a reviewer give your classmate on her draft paper, and will be determined by your peer-review partner.					
Introduction and Thesis (5%): briefly explain the discipline-specific issue you have decided to write about, note the thesis or hypothesis you anticipate defending in your term paper to give your reader context of the overall research project, and clearly state the separate thesis you will defend in this stand-alone literature review.					
Academic Sources (15%): you must incorporate <u>ten</u> scholarly, peer-reviewed sources that are/were <u>not</u> assigned to read for class, and which relate specifically to your topic and thesis.					
Summaries and Grouping (40%): your literature review should explain existing arguments that pertain to your topic—whether these arguments support or contradict your thesis, or are relevant to your topic but tangential to the argument you make. Who is saying what, and why and how? In explaining the landscape of the current literature on your topic, you should strive to group scholars together in helpful ways to better understand what the relevant contemporary debates are.					
Grammar (10%): committing more than <u>eight</u> errors—including sentence fragments, run-on sentences, improper punctuation (, ; :), and incorrect spelling—will result in the loss of a full letter grade. Refer to the grammar review provided on our course webpage.					
Citations and Bibliography (10%): all quotes, paraphrases, and summaries must be cited using in-text citations or footnotes. Specific page numbers must be provided with each text citation. (If the text lacks page numbers, include n.p. (no page) in the citation.) At the end of your essay, you must also include the full citations of all your sources—using MLA, APA, or Chicago style (choose one style)—and the bibliography must be properly alphabetized. This does <u>not</u> count toward the minimum page requirement.					
Grade:					