Guidelines for Journal Article Reviews

1. Use correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.
2. Reviews must be typewritten and printed via computer output.
3. The following format is used for each article review:

Biographical Data:
Your name: Date:

APA Citation for each article reviewed:
or,
or,

Article Review:
- Summarize the major ideas, including unique theories/methods used in the research.
- Describe the author’s point-of-view or contentions.
- How were the findings related to the review of literature?

Critical Analyses:
- Evaluate the ideas and information presented in the article.
- Are the author’s conclusions logical and supported by others, including you? Explain.
- How does this article affect your current research manuscript?
A Systematic Process for Research Article Reviews

The key to completing an effective and efficient literature search is based on the QUALITY, not quantity, of sources found and used in the literature review. Research writing must be “tight and precise,” have logical flow from one idea to another, and leave the reader satisfied that your story makes sense from beginning to end. To achieve this outcome, search for sources using a systematic process. It may be helpful to write out your “purpose of this study” and post it close to where you are searching. When you get confused or lost in your search, re-read your research purpose, then follow these steps.

1. **STAY FOCUSED** on your **SPECIFIC PURPOSE**.
2. Search for titles that are loosely related to your research interest.
3. Read the **Abstract** first to determine relevancy to your research interest.
4. Read the **Conclusions** second to find out how this study relates to what other authors discovered in previous studies.
5. Read the **Methods** to determine if the study had a sound design; looks for flaws and/or omissions (no mention of reliability or validity checks, non-response errors, etc.).
6. Read the **Introduction/Theoretical Framework**, if the article is closely related to your research.
7. Build an established trail; search the sources cited in the study.
8. Build a logical framework, based on previous studies of closely related research.
9. WRITE something every day until it is completed; even one paragraph is something.
10. DO NOT edit your work in piece-meal fashion; finish the entire work, then edit it.

**Journal Article Reviews**

Answering, or at least keeping in mind, the following questions while searching the literature helps you decide which journal articles contribute most to your study.

- What is the theoretical framework for the article?
  - Theoretical framework guides the organization of the research study.
  - Framework focuses the purpose and objectives.
- What is the conceptual framework for the article?
  - Generally, a conceptual framework centers on one part of the theoretical framework.
  - The conceptual framework provides a basis for the research problem.
- What is the author’s central claim or thesis?
  - How does the author support this claim?
    - Supported by relevant and sufficient evidence, or
    - Relies on anecdotes and emotional examples
- Were appropriate methods used?
- Do the results accurately answer the research objectives and/or purpose?
- Are the results and conclusions in agreement?
- Does the author consider opposing arguments and refute them persuasively?
- Does the author fall prey to logical fallacies?