

LITERATURE REVIEW

ABSTRACT FORMAT AND GUIDELINES

DESCRIPTION

The Literature Review abstract is a progression from the Research Critique abstract. It is designed to further develop professional writing and critical thinking skills, while introducing the need to synthesize information and points from multiple sources. Submissions in this category are limited to succinct reviews of scholarly research within the profession.

GOALS

The primary goals of the Literature Review abstract are to:

- Identify important information from multiple articles,
- Synthesize information and major points relevant to the topic,
- Demonstrate professional writing mechanics,
- Adhere to all formatting requirements.

TOPICS

Any topic within the fields of exercise science, kinesiology, health and wellness, physical education, sport psychology, and recreation may be used. The topic of the abstract has a specific or unique focal point amidst a much broader topic. If the topic is too broad, then space to adequately review the important information will not be available.

ARTICLE REQUIREMENTS

Only scholarly research articles relevant to the topic can be used. A minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) articles can be used for support. Find articles that are interesting, challenging, and relevant to the topic.

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

The specific formatting requirements for each part of the abstract are detailed below. For further clarification, please refer to the Sample Literature Review abstract available on-line.

Dimensions & Layout

The abstract must be typed on an 8.5" x 11" document, in Portrait layout.

Page Margins

All margins (top, bottom, left, and right) must be set to one-inch (1").

Length

The abstract must be EXACTLY one-page (1) in length.

Text Justification

All text, including the title, headers, and body text should be justified to the left margin.

Font Selection, Sizing & Formatting

Times New Roman font should be used throughout the entire abstract. Specific sizing and formatting requirements are as follows...

NOTE: Please follow these guidelines to the letter! DO NOT include additional style formatting, such as bolding or italics, if they are not mentioned specifically.

- Title – 18 pt., UPPER CASE, maximum one line in length
- Name, Email, and University – 10 pt., Title Case
- Content Headers – 12 pt., UPPER CASE, **bolded**
NOTE: Content headers for Literature Review are Issue, Overview, Considerations, and References.
- Body Text – 12 pt., Sentence case
- Table Title – 10 pt., centered above table, Title Case, **bolded**
- Table Text – 10 pt. centered within table, Title Case
- Table Label and Caption – 10 pt., Sentence case, placed below and justified with left side of table.
- References – 10 pt., APA guidelines for case and *italics*

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Title

At the top of the abstract, provide an **original** title related to the topic. The title must succinctly convey the focus of the abstract.

Name, Email, and University

Directly underneath the title, provide your first and middle initials followed by your last name. Following your name, provide a preferred email address. Following the email address, list your academic institution or professional affiliation. Your name, email, and university should be separated by hyphens “ – “.

Example

O. R. Michaelangelo – nunchukturtle@gmail.com – Manhattan State University

Content and Content Headers

Abstract content will be inserted one 12 pt. line beneath the Name, Email, and University. Content for the Literature Review abstract should be organized into separate sections under the following content headers: **Issue, Overview, Considerations, and References**. Appropriate content for each section should be inserted directly underneath each content header. A single 12 pt. line should separate each section of the abstract. Refer to the Sample Literature Review abstract (available on-line) for clarification.

CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Issue

In this section, succinctly state the topic/focus of the abstract and introduce the major points to be presented in the overview section. One to three sentence(s) should provide supporting background information for the topic. This section should be short (3-5 sentences in length).

Overview

In this section, discuss at least three major points, arguments, or research findings related to the topic. These points should represent a synthesis of information from the referenced research articles. **Each article should contribute to at least one point. At least two points should be supported by multiple research articles.** Space is limited, so choose the most relevant data and information to present. An original table or figure (see Graphic Requirements) may help to convey important or supporting information succinctly.

Considerations

Synthesize conclusions or practical recommendations from the referenced research articles in this section. This section provides an opportunity to provide your own interpretations and critical thoughts relevant to the topic. Any agreements or divergence between the presented points, strengths and limitations of the research presented, applicability of the research findings, and suggestions for future research should be addressed. While many things can be included in this section, it remains important to present quality information, rather than sheer quantity. An original table or figure (see Graphic Requirements) may help to convey important or supporting information succinctly.

References

Provide the appropriate citation information for each article in accordance with current APA formatting guidelines.

GRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS

One original table or figure must be created by the student author and used within the abstract. The table or figure can be used anywhere within the abstract (see recommendations above) to convey important information efficiently. The table or figure should be placed within the section and underneath the content from which citation was made. Tables must be created within the abstract and fully editable (e.g. no scanned tables are allowed). Figures, such as charts and images, can be designed in other computer applications, and imported into the abstract.

If you use a table, label it as “Table 1.” If you use a figure, label it as “Figure 1.” A full-sentence, descriptive caption should accompany the table or figure. Lastly, the table or figure must be cited within the text of the abstract, i.e. (see Table 1 or see Figure 1). Refer to the Sample Literature Review abstract for clarification.