

## Literature Review

### Due Dates:

Reference list due October 17

Draft review due October 24

Revised review due November 7

This assignment will help you establish the basis for your research project. You will organize articles you found in the literature search on your topic, and develop a synthesis of knowledge in those articles. Your synthesis should identify important knowledge gaps, which correspond to your project question.

If you apply the funnel analogy to your review, the topic should be relatively broad. The knowledge gap(s) you identify likely will be narrow, and should correspond directly to your research question. The knowledge synthesis in your review should form the narrowing extent of the funnel. It should lead the reader from the broad topic down to the narrow scope of your question. If you describe the importance of the ideas reviewed well, your review should express the importance of your project question compellingly.

To organize your ideas and write your review, you would do well to follow steps in [Helfield's approach](#). You also should find ideas in Turbek et al. (2016) helpful.

You should list articles cited below your review, following the format specified by the journal *Northwest Science*:

<https://www.northwestscience.org/author-guidelines#LiteratureCited>

### Recommended Length

Narrative: One page; 1-2 well-written paragraphs. Literature cited: list of 20-30 articles.

Your review will be evaluated using criteria described on the next page.

### Reference

Turbek SP, TM Chock, K Donahue, CA Havrilla, AM Oliverio, AK Polutchko, LG Shoemaker, L Vimercati. 2016. Scientific writing made easy: A step-by-step guide to undergraduate writing in the biological sciences. *Bull.Ecol.Soc.Am.* 97(4):417-426. [online]  
[https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/Scientific\\_Writing\\_Guide](https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/Scientific_Writing_Guide)

**Evaluation:** Maximum 100 points possible. A blank evaluation form is shown below.

| Literature Review                                             | Evaluation Sheet | Name _____ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 States topic clearly (10 pts)                               |                  | _____      |
| 2 Summarizes and synthesizes knowledge about topic (10 pts)   |                  | _____      |
| 3 Identifies unanswered questions, knowledge gaps (10 pts)    |                  | _____      |
| 4 States importance of knowledge gaps compellingly (10 pts)   |                  | _____      |
| 5 All review ideas relate to research project (10 pts)        |                  | _____      |
| 6 All ideas cited; cited correctly (10 pts)                   |                  | _____      |
| 7 Reference list is complete, and appropriate format (10 pts) |                  | _____      |
| 8 Writing and Presentation (30 pts)                           |                  | _____      |
| <b>Total (100 pts)</b>                                        |                  | _____      |

**Evaluation rubric:** Descriptions that fully meet the following criteria will earn full credit.

- 1 Review begins by stating the topic clearly and concisely. Topic centers on your research project.
- 2 Review summarizes knowledge about the topic. Review also synthesizes knowledge, beyond merely listing ideas in some sequence.
- 3 Review identifies knowledge gap(s) clearly. Statement of knowledge gap(s) flows smoothly and logically from knowledge synthesis (see 2).
- 4 States importance of knowledge gap(s) clearly, so that reader desires answer(s) to the unanswered question(s)
- 5 All statements and ideas relate to your research project, and support its importance.
- 6 Statements represent ideas in cited articles accurately. All ideas are cited, except your own.
- 7 Reference list includes all articles cited, and does not contain articles not cited. Format conforms to *Northwest Science* instructions to authors.
- 8 Writing and Presentation: ideas are clearly and effectively presented. Identifies citations pertaining to each idea clearly and unambiguously. Paragraphs use transitions where appropriate, sentences are well-formed, language is precise, spelling is correct.