

Literature Review

General Guidelines for AP Biology Series

Overview:

Literature reviews are major part of the college experience. Therefore, as part of your AP experience, you will complete a series of relatively brief literature reviews. It is my intent to familiarize you with the basic components of a literature review, including but not limited to, format, organization, depth of research, and method of documentation. There is also the added benefit that you will become “experts” on a topic that extends beyond the class lecture and notes.

A literature review is not a research paper. Someone else has done the research. Your task is to assimilate that research information into a single document. Your primary responsibility will be to locate current and valid resources from experts within the field and restructure that information into your own words.

Procedure:

1. You will submit a research paper consisting of a **minimum of ten double-spaced, typed pages** of informative text.
 - The paper must be constructed using MS Word in Times New Roman 12pt. font.
 - You will submit both a hard copy and a floppy with the paper saved as a word doc.
 - The file will be submitted to “Turn It In .com” to check for plagiarism.
2. Use at least 10 references to support your information. This may include books, magazines, journals, and electronic sources. ***No encyclopedias.** Encyclopedias by there very nature are literature reviews.
 - the scientific level of your sources will be one factor that is considered in computing your grade. Consider your source carefully, especially if it is an Internet web site. Remember, anyone can create a web page.
3. Illustrations may be included to support or clarify the content of your paper. These pages are not counted in the required 10 pages of text. You must also refer to the illustrations within the text of the paper.
4. Each student shall select a different topic. Assignments will be made on a first come first serve basis. I must approve your topic.
5. Your research paper is to be submitted in proper report form. The details of this method shall be covered in class lecture. Failure to cite references will result in a zero (0) on this project. Crediting your sources is the most important component of a literature review. This procedure

will be covered extensively in class. I highly advise you to write the paper using your own words. **Plagiarism will be dealt with severely.**

6. You will be receiving written guidelines on the specifics of format. You must read these guidelines carefully.
7. Please, do not follow another college tradition, procrastination. I will answer any questions you may pose on format or content up to two days before the due date. After that time I am **not** at your disposal.
8. This assignment will be graded using a rubric that generates points in two major areas, mechanics and content. You will receive a copy of the rubric well before the due date. The final paper will be equivalent to a test grade.