

Outlining Your Literature Review

Carefully read through the following explanations and notice how the model outline includes everything asked on your Components of a Literature Review assignment instructions *since that's what your teacher grades you on!*

The most important rule to remember in outlining is that an outline is 'tentative.' Give yourself the freedom to change initial lengths, themes, and content according to what best fits the research you find.

The Introduction

Here is an example of how to outline the introduction:

Introduction (1 page)	How many pages? 6-7pgs.
a. General, overall presentation of topic/ * Give necessary definitions of discipline specific vocabulary.	
Definition: Dual Language Bilingual Program-	
"In dual language education, two languages are used in the classroom for instruction and learning. Biliteracy is as much an aim as full bilingualism, with literacy being acquired in both languages either simultaneously or with an initial emphasis on native language literacy" (Alanís, 306).	
Last name page #	
Definition: ELLs, ESL...	
b. Thesis Statement: _____	

c. Research Question: <u>According to research, how effective are Dual Language Bilingual Programs?</u>	

Outlines may vary from a simple list of elements/ideas to include in your paper to a more detailed description that includes the quotations and citations to be used.

You can also use both strategies as this example shows.

Notice at this point in the outlining you don't need a thesis statement. However, leave a blank space for it. You will write your thesis LAST because the information of your body will be the basis for your thesis statement.

However, you want to make sure to include your research question. This will help keep you focused when outlining the body paragraphs.



Writing Task Part 1 – The Introduction

Using the outline example above and explanatory side notes create the outline for your introduction.

The Body Paragraphs

Literature Reviews can be organized in various ways, but this review focuses on the Thematic Pattern, which is organized around several topics or issues highlighted in all the articles versus a chronological order (when the article was written) or a critique of each individual article.

Thematic	Body (+ pages)
	Theme #1: Components of successful dual language immersion programs
	Topic Sentence: _____
	Point #1
	Point #2
	Point #3
	Transition sentence: _____
	Theme #2: Staff requirements for a successful dual language immersion programs
	Topic Sentence: _____
	Point #1
	Point #2
	Point #3
	Transition sentence: _____
	Theme #3: Why dual language immersion programs didn't work
	Topic Sentence: _____
	Point #1
	Point #2
	Point #3
	Transition sentence: _____

You won't have a preset number of themes or points. How many themes and points you have depends upon the information you gathered in your research.

These themes will come from your research notes

The body outline can be a simple list or a detailed description complete with all the quotations you will use for supporting evidence.

Make sure you write a topic sentence and transition sentence to help organize your thoughts.



Writing Task Part 2 – The Body Paragraphs

Using the outline example above and explanatory side notes create the outline for your body paragraphs.

Implications

Implications (1 page)
For further research:

List holes in arguments from articles

- Hole #1
- Hole #2
- Hole #3

List further possible research questions raised by the readings

- Further research question #1
- Further research question #2
- Further research question #3

List your own theories and ideas that need to be addressed

- Theory #1
- Theory #2
- Theory #3

Here are some thoughts to consider for your implications section:

- + Were sound methodologies used? (in academic articles this will be listed under the design/methodologies section). Give supporting examples.
- + Was their reasoning sound? Give examples.
- + Where are the holes? Give examples.
- + Remember, just because an article has a 'weakness' doesn't mean that it isn't valid anymore. Make sure to note both its strengths and weaknesses

You don't have to have three examples for each section.



Writing Task 3 – Implications

Using the outline example above and explanatory side notes create the outline for your implications section.

The Conclusion

Conclusion (1 page)

Review/summarize main points in the body that follow thesis statement:

- Review/summary Theme #1
- Review/summary Theme #2
- Review/summary Theme #3

Answer Research Question from Introduction

Conclusions should never introduce new information. They should be a summary of the main themes and ideas you presented in your literature review.

You should answer the research question you posed in your introduction.



Writing Task 4 – Conclusion

Using the outline example above and explanatory side notes create the outline for your Conclusion section.