

# 🔥 How to Write a 'Lit' Literature Review 🔥

## What Even is a Literature Review?

- A general overview of significant literature in which important authors are placed in conversation with each other.
- Basically, if you were in a room with all of the authors that you were citing, what would their conversation be to one another? What would they agree on? Disagree on? What would you add to the conversation?

## Steps to Writing a Literature Review

1. Find current and past literature
2. Summarize each source; group common themes
3. Identify points of controversy and conflicting points of view
4. Find quotes that you will want to use within the lit review
5. Find areas for further research
6. Present past and current literature
7. Find gaps in research for you to explore

## Things to Consider:

- Which author started the conversation around your chosen topic? Were they specifically responded to by another author?
- Where is the conversation now?
- Which authors are constantly being cited?

## How do I Start my Introduction?

- Identify the topic and provide context
- Share what perspective you are focusing on in the paper
- Single out trends, gaps, and/or conflicts in research

## What Should be in the Body Paragraphs?

- The common themes found within the research
- The most significant research should take up the most space
- Provide clear transitions to the different themes

## How Do I End This?

- Summarize major contributions and findings of studies
- Point out areas for future study and/or flaws in current research methodology
- Connect the topic between a larger area of study

## Example Body Paragraph of a Literature Review from “Why Sexist Language Affects Persuasion”

However, other studies have shown that even gender-neutral antecedents are more likely to produce masculine images than feminine ones (Gastil, 1990). Hamilton (1988) asked students to complete sentences that required them to fill in pronouns that agreed with gender-neutral antecedents such as “writer,” “pedestrian,” and “persons.” The students were asked to describe any image they had when writing the sentence. Hamilton found that people imagined 3.3 men to each woman in the masculine “generic” condition and 1.5 men per woman in the unbiased condition. Thus, while ambient sexism accounted for some of the masculine bias, sexist language amplified the effect.

(Source: Erika Falk and Jordan Mills, “Why Sexist Language Affects Persuasion: The Role of Homophily, Intended Audience, and Offense,” *Women and Language* 19:2).