

Chapter 2

The Literature Review



Statistics Solutions

Advancement Through Clarity

Contents

Introduction

Literature Search Strategy

Theoretical Framework

Review of the Literature

- Synthesis
- Analysis

Summary





Restate the purpose of your study



Remind the reader of the importance and need for your study



Preview contents of the Chapter

Introduction

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Describe your comprehensive search for research



List databases and search tools used



Include specialized journals searched, if you searched them



Include key terms (and combinations) that you used as search terms



Include any way that you filtered or qualified your search

English only

Full text

Date of publication (i.e., 2015-present)

Peer reviewed, academic articles

Literature Search Strategy

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Check your school's template

Not required in the literature review for all schools



Extended discussion of the framework that may appear in Chapter 1



Who developed the theory? Year? To explain what?



Define the theory, along with any associated components

Use the theoretical foundation associated with your instrument or major concepts



Discuss what researchers have used the theory for



Connect to your study

How does the theory help explain what you are studying?

Theoretical Framework

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Cover recent literature on your factors, variables, and major concepts



Use headers to organize material into sections based on factors, variables, and major concepts



Organize material in sections typically by having a section introduction and then reviewing the research



Reviewing research consists of synthesis and analysis

Review of the Literature

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Synthesis

Synthesis: The combination of parts so as to form a whole

Combine information from studies to make your points

Synthesize at the paragraph level and use standard paragraph organization strategy

- Topic (one sentence)
- Evidence and discussion of topic (several sentences)
 - From the literature on the topic
 - Includes noting where findings differ from and align with one another
- Summary sentence and transition to next topic (one sentence)

Synthesis Example

- Topic sentence, evidence related to or discussion of the topic, and a summary or transition statement to the next topic
- Eating disorders are psychological illnesses that involve individuals having abnormal relationships with food (Smith, 2019). Individuals with eating disorders often have a distorted view of their bodies and behavior, especially those who suffer from bulimia and anorexia (Jones, 2018). Eating disorders usually include excessive or inadequate food intake that can adversely affect a person's wellbeing (Williams, 2020). Eating disorders can appear at any age or stage of an individual's life (Williams, 2020). The most common forms of eating disorders include bulimia nervosa, anorexia nervosa, and binge eating disorder (Smith, 2019).

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Analysis

Analysis of the research involves noting shortcomings or gaps of studies

Note trends and gaps in the research

Reiterate the research problem and need for your study

Culminates in argument for conducting your study

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Recap major points from the Chapter



Remind the reader of the research problem based on what is in and not in the literature



Reiterate the need for your study

Summary

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