Read a Literature Review

30 minutes

Go to the library website (lib.byu.edu) and type in “Literature review on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Fill in the blank with whatever topic interests you today; this topic does not need to be the topic for your paper. If you are fumbling for a topic, try something like rabies, smart cars, or nanotechnology.

If you need to narrow the search, try clicking on *Articles* on the left side of the search. Find an online article with “literature review” in the title. Open it up and read or skim the review. Take notes on anything you notice about the structure, format, and style. Here are a few prompts.

* What is the exact topic of the review?
* What is the purpose of this review?
* How many authors wrote the review?
* How many sources does the review have?
* How often does a citation appear?
* Does the review mention the same source several times? If so, why?
* What sections does the review have?
* How is this review different from other academic articles you have read?
* Is the review trying to answer a question?
* What is the conclusion of the review?
* Does anything about this review seem unusual to you?

When you finish, come back to the classroom so we can discuss what you learned.