

AP Research Literature Review Checklist

___ State the topic of your inquiry--the broad phenomenon you began with (For example: lung disease, water conservation, etc.)

___ State the narrow focus of your inquiry (For example: potential treatment of pulmonary alveolar proteinosis, environmental impact of replacing storm drains with water trapping cisterns in the San Fernando Valley.)

___ Provide a short, but detailed history of the relevant aspects of your topic

___ Define key terms, concepts, and theories relevant to your topic

___ Provide a review of existing sources that have led to your narrow focus

___ Review the foundational texts on your topic. * Review, for our purposes, means: Summarize the arguments, evaluate the lines of reasoning and evidence, and evaluate the main responses to these texts.

___ Review the sources that have carried on the work of these foundational sources, or have contributed to the existing body of knowledge on your topic.

___ Review sources that challenge or qualify these foundational texts

___ Identify main arguments, disagreements, or differences of perspective on the topic

___ Evaluate and synthesize a response, where necessary, to these arguments

(For example: *While there is much disagreement about Los Angeles' county legal rights to water from the Owens Valley, if such an arrangement were to be made today surely most courts would rule against it. Regardless, the most pressing issue is not to lay blame over the way water is conserved or misused in Southern California, but to figure out more viable means of reforming our water infrastructure.*)

___ Explain how your evaluation of the multiple perspectives on your broad topic has led to your narrow focus

___ Justify the inclusion/citation of the sources you used to create your understanding of the topic.

___ Identify gaps in the existing body of knowledge about your narrow focus

___ Identify a specific purpose for your research: to explore something, explain something, or create something

___ Explain how accomplishing this purpose will help address one of the these gaps

___ Offer a justified, convincing rationale for your inquiry and its related purpose. How will addressing the gap in this way benefit our understanding of the topic, discipline, scholarly field or real world?

___ Propose a hypothesis about what you expect will happen as a result of your research

___ Identify any assumptions you are making in your research