

AP Research Literature Review Checklist

- ___ Provide a mission statement that specifies the purpose of your research - to explore something, to explain something, or to create something.
- ___ State the topic of your inquiry – describe the broad phenomenon you have observed that guided your initial focus for your research project.
- ___ Trace out the evolution of your narrowed topic using academic literature
- ___ Define key terms, concepts and theories relevant to your topic
- ___ Describe and evaluate major influences and advancements in the evolution of academic literature in your topic; who were the original initiators of ideas presented in the paper?
- ___ Explain the multiple perspectives that authors have taken in academic literature on this topic.
- ___ Justify the inclusion of sources selected in terms of breadth and need.
- ___ Compare and contrast main arguments, disagreements, or differences of perspective on the topic.
- ___ Identify any assumptions you are making in your research and associated methods.
- ___ State the narrow focus of your inquiry; point out academic sources that were helpful in narrowing the focus of your inquiry.
- ___ Summarize the methods and findings from your foundational academic literature including a review of the claims made in their analysis of findings, evaluation of the lines of reasoning, and evidence that can be compared to your research.
- ___ Review the foundational sources that your foundational source authors relied upon in their papers.
- ___ Describe academic literature that challenges the conclusions of your foundational sources.
- ___ Identify gaps in the existing body of knowledge, one or two of which you will fill.
- ___ Expand your discussion of the “gap” in the academic literature that your research addresses.
- ___ Justify the need for your research method with a rationale that aligns with your foundational sources. How will addressing the proposed gap benefit our understanding of the topic, discipline, scholarly field or real world applications?