APA Style Paper Types: Literature Review & Experimental Report

Literature Review

A literature review is a concise and critical summary of existing research related to a specific topic or question. Common in APA-style fields, especially in student research, literature reviews are often assigned to assess a student's familiarity with the current state of knowledge in a field.

Key components typically include:

- • Title page
 - Introduction section
 - List of references

Some instructors may require an abstract, so confirm assignment guidelines. The expected length and number of sources can vary depending on course or instructor.

Note: A literature review is not the same as an annotated bibliography. For the latter, refer to APA's guidelines specific to annotated bibliographies.

Experimental Report

Experimental reports are commonly required in social sciences when students design and conduct their own research. These papers follow a structured format aligned with the scientific method.

The structure includes:

- • Title page
 - Abstract
 - Introduction
 - Method
 - Results
 - Discussion
 - References
 - Appendices (if applicable)
 - Tables and/or figures (if applicable)

Each section plays a key role in helping readers understand the study: from its importance, problem addressed, methods used, findings, to the interpretation of those findings.

Length and depth may vary by course or journal, often based on the research scope.

Other Papers

If your paper does not fit the literature review or experimental report formats, follow general APA formatting guidelines, consult your instructor, or refer to the APA Publication Manual.

When submitting to a journal, follow that publication's submission policies. Tailor sections to effectively present your material and consider the needs of your target audience.