

The Review Article English 302

- Purpose:** To review the current state of knowledge in your major field of study as it relates to issue(s) or problem(s) you would like to investigate
- Audience:** Class members who share your major; your English 302 teacher; teachers in your major
- Format:** The review article

When members of a discipline (AKA your major) want to address a problem or an issue in their field because they think they have a course of action or solution that should be considered, they must first find out what others in their field have already written about the problem or issue. This investigation of the scholarly literature is called a review.

In a review the writer

- defines and clarifies the issue(s) or problem(s)
- summarizes previous investigations in order to inform the reader of the state of current research;
- identifies relations, contradictions, gaps, and inconsistencies in the literature; and
- suggests the next step or steps in solving the problem.

Unlike the writer of a researched report, who tends to look for answers to individual research questions, the writer of a review looks at how the authors in all the sources used answer all the research questions and compares these answers to find a fit for his/her ideas.

Adapted from the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (4th ed)

For this class, your review should be 1000 to 1500 words in length, not counting bibliography, and should include 4 or 5 scholarly sources in your major.

In this review, you should be able to demonstrate (and will be graded on) the ability to:

- Identify and develop research question/main idea
- Organize material
- Synthesize material from multiple sources according to main points (not just summaries of sources without synthesis)
- Use evidence to support main ideas in support of research question(s)
- Paraphrase and, if appropriate, quote from sources
- Cite and document sources appropriately
- Use standard grammar, syntax, mechanics
- Use appropriate voice/tone/word choice for academic context