# Chapter 2: Review of the Literature Rubric

This chapter situates the study in the context of previous research, presents a critical synthesis of empirical literature according to relevant themes or variables, justifies how the study addresses a gap or problem in the literature, and outlines the theoretical or conceptual framework of the study.

| Is the section included? | Yes/ No | Does it do this? | Yes/ No | Is the section clear? | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Introduction |  | Describes the content, scope, and organization of the review as well as the strategy used in the literature search. |  |  |  |
| Problem Statement |  | Briefly restates the problem developed in previous chapter. |  |  |  |
| Review of literature |  | Clearly relates to the problem statement, research questions and/or hypotheses. |  |  |  |
|  |  | Reviews primary sources that are mostly recent empirical studies from scholarly journals. |  |  |  |
|  |  | Organizes materials logically by theme, subtopic, or variable from broad to narrow (funnel design). |  |  |  |
|  |  | Synthesizes findings across studies; compares/contrasts different research outcomes, perspectives, or methods. |  |  |  |
|  |  | Notes gaps, debates, or shortcomings in the literature and provides a rationale for the study. |  |  |  |
| Summary |  |  |  |  |  |

Literature Review Rubric

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|  | Explanation of Score: 1=Undeveloped/ Deficient; 2= Emerging; 3 = Satisfactory; 4= Very good, developed; 5=Excellent, well-developed | Score |
| Introduction and Statement of Problem | The topic is introduced and groundwork is laid as to the direction of the review. The problem is clearly conceptualized and presented. |  |
| Quality of References | Literature cited is current, predominately primary research and related to the topic. The appropriate content is covered in depth. There is a clear sense of the different voices/ positions surrounding the topic. Sources are cited when specific statements are made. |  |
| Coherent Synthesis of Relevant Theory | The narrative that develops points the reader toward the significance of the study. The ideas and themes found in the literature are logically organized and synthesized. Insights into the problem are appropriate. The chapter concludes with a strong closing statement and clearly states what needs to be further explored. The writer makes succinct and precise conclusions based on the review. |  |
| Methodology | Identified the main methodologies and research techniques and their advantages and disadvantages. Related ideas and theories to the methodologies. |  |
| Clarity of Ideas | Uses professional, academic writing style and tone. Writing clear, succinct, and mechanically correct. |  |
| Citations and Formatting | All needed citations included. Reference list matches the citations. APA6 format. |  |