

Student name: _____

Student number: _____

Grade: _____

LITERATURE REVIEW for SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT

A **literature review** is a text of a scholarly paper, which includes the current knowledge incorporating significant findings, as well as theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. (**YOUR Science Fair Topic**)

In a research paper, you use the literature as a foundation and as support for a new insight that you contribute. The focus of a literature review, however, is to summarize and synthesize the arguments and ideas of others without adding new contributions. Literature reviews provide a solid background for a research paper's investigation. Comprehensive knowledge of the literature of the field is essential to most research papers.

A literature review has an organizational pattern and combines both summary and synthesis. A summary is a recap of the important information of the source, but a synthesis is a re-organization, or a reshuffling, of that information. It might give a new interpretation of old material or combine new with old interpretations. Or it might trace the intellectual progression of the field, including major debates.

- How many sources should you include TOTAL? Minimum **6 sources**; Minimum **one peer-reviewed journal article per student**.
- What types of sources (books, journal articles, websites)? **Scientific sources**.
- Should you summarize, synthesize, or critique your sources by discussing a common theme or issue? **Summarize and synthesize**
- Should you evaluate your sources? **The only requirement is that you select sources that are scientific. This means that they are from a “reputable” scientific source such as academic institutions (websites end in “.edu”), scientific organizations (NASA, AMA, etc.)**
- Should you provide subheadings and other background information, such as definitions and/or a history? Your homework should be written in **Microsoft WORD**; it should include your name, name of the class, grade, date, student number (top right in heading area) and the Hypothesis of the Science Fair Project. (See sample below)
- How should the information be organized? **APA style for referencing the source**.
- How should I save my information? You should save your information in a USB drive that is **ONLY** for the science class as stated in the syllabus. It is recommended that if the student has a computer that they save it in the computer and/or in another place like iCloud, Dropbox, etc. As back up, it is a great idea to email it to yourself so that you can get it from your email if everything else fails. 😊
- What should I do if I still have any questions? You should talk to Mrs. Villaverde, Mrs. Molina or Mr. De Leon. You can also email Mrs. Villaverde at villaverdescience@gmail.com

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Class: _____

Date: _____

Hypothesis:

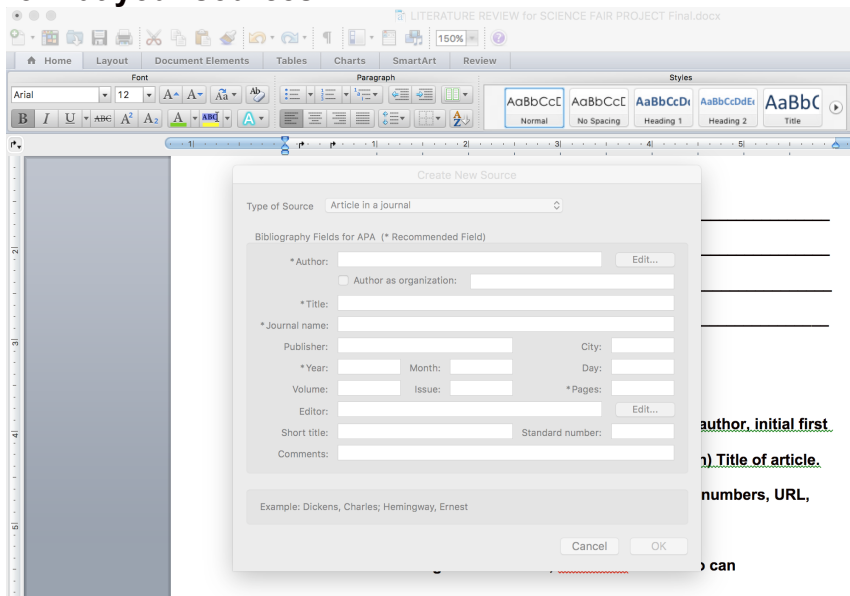
Independent Variable: _____

Dependent Variable: _____

Article #1:

Last name of author, initial first name, last name second author, initial first name (et. al. if more than two authors) (year of publication) Title of article. *Name of Journal, website, etc. (in italics)* Volume #, page numbers, URL, DOI (for Peer-reviewed articles)

REFER TO BibMe.org for assistance; Microsoft Word also can also help you format your sources.



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Science Fair Literature Review Requirements

Hypothesis:

Independent Variable: _____

Dependent Variable: _____

_____ (8 points) Meets all the requirements set in this handout, in the course syllabus, and stated in class.

_____ (24 points) Submits 6 scientific sources/articles about the variables presented in the hypothesis of the scientific project. The articles must present information about your topic/hypothesis/variables.

_____ (24 points) Submits 6 articles organized in APA styles with respective summaries.

_____ (24 points) Submits 6 summaries (one per scientific article); each summary is presented using students own words summarizing and synthesizing the information about the variables of your Science Fair Hypothesis. Each summary should consist of a minimum of 10 sentences.

*Students that are working in pairs should each submit 3 articles with summaries of 15 sentences or more for each article.

_____ (20 points) Submits a well thought out hypothesis and variables. Refer to website below if you have any questions.

http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_hypothesis.shtml

_____ (100 points) TOTAL

*Due date for first three sources/articles (any revisions, late submission, edited reviews: **Thursday, September 8th** at the beginning of the class.

*Due date for three additional sources/articles: **Tuesday, September 20th** at the beginning of class.

*Late submissions will incur penalties as stated in the course syllabus.