Review of Literature Grading Rubric

**Sources**

1. A minimum of 7 scholarly sources are used (defined as peer reviewed journal articles, edited book chapters, or scholarly books).

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Comments:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Sources are relatively recent publications or are central pieces to the literature on the topic.

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1. Sources are among the most relevant to the topic. Tangential sources are not used and central concepts and findings are explicated by way of the sources utilized.

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1. Sources are summarized in a way that the reader can decipher the author’s argument and/or the researcher’s aims, design, findings, and conclusions.

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1. Paper incorporates only the most relevant information from each source. Tangential details of the research are not “thrown in.”

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1. Direct quotes from sources are used sparingly and only when especially relevant (when paraphrasing would not do justice to the information being presented). Otherwise, paraphrasing is used to relay information from the sources.

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1. Sources are integrated, not simply presented in a “block” format where each paragraph represents movement to a new source.

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**Argument**

1. Information from sources is synthesized in a way that builds a scholarly argument.

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1. Sources are put in conversation with each other such that they work together to build an argument instead of being presented in list/summary form, like an annotated bibliography would be.

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1. Student dialogues with the sources by explaining how they fit together, by offering critiques, and by pointing to “holes” in the literature.

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1. Information from sources is organized, synthesized, and utilized in a way that builds an argument which justifies the original research proposed by the student. In other words, the review of literature leads to the research questions/hypotheses. The reader should come away thinking, “Yes, it makes sense to take on this project given what I’ve just read.”

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**Research Questions or Hypotheses**

1. Student has chosen the most appropriate format for the project in deciding to pose a question or a hypothesis.

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1. Research questions/hypotheses are grounded in the existing research explicated in the literature review.

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1. It is feasible for the student to answer the research questions or to test the hypotheses.

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1. The questions or hypotheses posed are of some relevance/importance to the study of the topic, in other words, the original research will add something to the body that exists.

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**Quality of writing**

1. Paper is written in the style of social scientific research (third person, non-narrative style)

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Comments:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Writing is free of typos, spelling errors, and grammatical errors.

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1. Transitions are present and effective.

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1. Paper has a logical organizational style suited to the area of research (chronological or more often topical).

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1. Writing is eloquent – wording is not awkward or unnecessarily complicated, but is complex while remaining clear and concise.

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**Formatting**

1. Sections are in the correct order and are headed appropriately, according to APA style (introduction, review of literature, research questions/hypotheses).

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Comments:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. In text citations are included and formatted according to APA style

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1. Reference list is included and formatted in APA style (all required information is included for each source). No source appears in the list that does not appear in text and vice versa.

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1. Paper is typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font with 1 inch margins on all sides

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1. Research questions/Hypotheses are formatted according to APA style

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1. Sections are appropriate length as designated on the assignment sheet.

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