

SPE 570  
Project Template

Doing a Preliminary Review of the Literature:

My broad research topic is:

Go on line to Dr. Mercer's website and click on "Doing Research at the Steen Library." Follow the instructions on the red page.

When you get on line, you will be ready to begin to do a "review of the literature." When you do this review, you are trying *to find out what research has already been done and published*. There are several reasons that you want to know what's already been done on your topic.

- Someone may already have done the study that you want to do.
- Someone may have done a study sort of like the one you want to do that will give you ideas about where to go.
- There may be information out there that will help you understand your topic better.
- There may be studies that give you data or stories that relate to your topic.

When you get on line, you are going to do a computer search to find out if there is anything in the data banks that relate to your topic. So, in the boxes, enter the terms that you think would be likely to bring up the articles that will be relevant. The terms that I am going to enter are:

1.

2.

3.

There will be a list of articles that come up. ***PRINT THAT LIST!!*** That way, you'll know what sources are available. Read the title of each one. Does it sound pretty close to your topic? Do you think you should read it to find out what the authors looked at? If so, you can click on the full article option and open the whole article. Then you can read it on line or print it out. Either way, ***SAVE*** the article. If you are printing, punch the article with a 3-hole punch and alphabetize by last name of the author. If you are saving, put the article on a flash drive or other storage device in a folder labeled "Review of the Literature."

How many articles did you find that seem to have at least something to do with your topic? \_\_\_\_\_

Did any of the articles do the ***EXACT*** study that you planned to do?

Yes

No

Did any of the articles contain information that you didn't expect or that you found surprising?

Yes

No

If yes, which one?

Did all of the articles say pretty much the same thing?

Yes

No

If yes, what did they say?

List five things that you learned from your review of the literature.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.