# Annotated examples of how to write a literature review

Source: https://bit.ly/3kH5SwJ

## Synthesis of literature

**Introducing a reoccurring theme**

The impact of social media on the academic performance of tertiary students has been well researched.

**Positioning research findings** *(different points of view)*

Although some research findings outline social and emotional benefits of using social media for learning (e.g., Kabilan et al., 2010; McCarthy, 2013), a number of studies demonstrate a correlation between student use of social media and poor academic achievement.

**Elaborating on research findings** *(that align with your point of view)*

For example, a study of both undergraduate and graduate students found that social media users had a lower Grade Point Average (GPA) (Kirschner & Karpinski, 2010). These findings were also mirrored in an extensive study of nearly two thousand undergraduate students (Junco, 2012). However, researchers also argue that the use of social media is, in itself, not necessarily a negative predictor of GPA. Instead, negative impact relates to *how* students use social media. In one large-scale study, for instance, students who attempted to multi-task, by using social media at the same time as studying, were not only less efficient and less productive, but also had lower GPAs than students who studied without using social media (Karpinksi, Kirschner, Ozer, Mellot, & Ochwo, 2013). Similarly, Lau (2017) concluded that it was the simultaneous use of social media for non-academic purposes that had a negative correlation with academic performance.

**Stating the significance of research findings**

These recent studies have begun to provide insight into how social media use may negatively affect the academic performance of tertiary students.

## Identifying limitations & future research

**Specifying a limitation**

One limitation of past studies is a focus on the relationship between students' social media use and their overall academic performance, rather than on close study of how students use social media.

**Explaining the impact of the limitation**

This means that researchers currently know relatively little about the different ways in which students use social media during and/or for their studies. If tertiary educators and researchers want a better understanding of student behaviour and factors related to study success, then examining how successful students use social media is critical.

**Suggesting future research**

Future research could, for instance, investigate how high performing students may achieve academic excellence, while also being active social media users.

**Stating possible contribution**

Such research could contribute to identifying specific strategies and patterns of use that relate to successful management and integration of social media in student life.

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Source: https://bit.ly/3alfuII

## Introduction

*Topic sentence - identifies five major themes as the scope of this review*

Many theories have been proposed to explain what motivates human behaviour. Although the literature covers a wide variety of such theories, this review will focus on five major themes which emerge repeatedly throughout the literature reviewed. These themes are: incorporation of the self-concept into traditional theories of motivation, the influence of rewards on motivation, the increasing importance of internal forces of motivation, autonomy and self-control as sources of motivation, and narcissism as an essential component of motivation. Although the literature presents these themes in a variety of contexts, this paper will primarily focus on their application to self-motivation.

*5 major themes to be covered*          *Concluding sentence - specific focus*

## Paragraph

*Topic sentence - outlining your main claim or key point for that paragraph*

*First statement of evidence from the literature*

By its very nature, motivation requires a degree of individual satisfaction or narcissism. Robbins, Millet, Cacioppe, and Waters-Marsh (1998) suggest that motivation has as its very basis the need to focus on, and please the self. This is supported by Shaw, Shapard and Waugaman (2000) who contend that this narcissistic drive is based on the human effort to find personal significance in life. It can be argued that the desire to improve one's status is a highly motivational force, and is central to the idea of narcissistic motivation. The narcissistic motivational strategies put forward by Shaw et al. (2000) are concerned with motivation for life in general, but may also have applications in the context of work. These strategies, with their focus on personal needs, demonstrate that narcissism is an essential component of motivation.

*Second statement of evidence from the literature*          *Student analysis*          *Concluding statement*

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