<div align="center">**Literature Review**</div>

Due:
Literature Review Grid 10/29 before class
Rough Draft 10/31 before class
Final Draft 11/12 by midnight

Length: 3-4 Pages

Purpose: The purpose of the literature review is: 1.) to give you the opportunity to familiarize yourself with recent scholarship on your topic; 2.) to help you fine tune the topic of your research paper; and 3.) to help stimulate your thinking about the thesis of your own research paper. The basic idea is to see how other scholars have approached your topic so you can draw on—and, ideally, contribute to—their experiences. A literature review is a neutral synthesis of multiple sources' arguments. **Your opinions/ideas/argument should not be included in this paper.**

Directions: Pick 3 scholarly articles from your annotated bibliography research. Resist the temptation to pick the three shortest; rather, try to choose articles that you believe are important and helpful. You can also include books in your literature survey if you choose to do extra research, but you will probably only want to focus on a particular chapter or section. If you need help determining the worth of a particular article or book, please ask me.

Read the articles carefully—at least twice. Some articles are fairly clear and straightforward; others will be more complicated and even obscure. A solid understanding of the author's argument will make it easier to write the literature review, and should help you formulate your own argument more effectively.

To avoid just slapping together several paragraphs with little or no coherence, try to generate an overall thesis or argument that helps pull the articles together. Is there some common assumption or argument that all of the articles address? Is there some aspect of the topic that all of the articles focus on? Do the articles form some kind of conversation (i.e., are the articles in agreement or are they contentious)?

In order to achieve cohesion throughout your paper, it is easier to organize your paragraphs based on themes, rather than by author.

Conclusion: A literature survey is an important part of any serious research project (typically, the first chapter of a scholarly book acts as a literature survey). To make a convincing argument, you need to prove to your reader that you understand both the primary texts and the scholarly concerns surrounding them. A solid grasp of secondary scholarship will also help you avoid "reinventing the wheel," and should help you generate lots of ideas for your own research paper.

	High Proficiency	Proficient	Some Proficiency	No/Limited Proficiency	Points Awarded
Position: Do you find clear themes linking the articles together based on your proposal topic? Do you stick with these themes throughout?	35 to 29	28 to 25	24 to 20	19 to 0	
Explanations of articles: Do your explanations connect the articles to each other, or do you merely summarize each article individually?	35 to 29	28 to 25	24 to 20	19 to 0	
Organization: Is there a logic to the progression your paragraphs, do paragraphs stay focused on developing one piece of support or do they wander from one idea to the next, do paragraphs repeat ideas? Does your organization fit the genre (theme based, not summarizing each article individually)?	30 to 25	24 to 21	20 to 18	17 to 0	
Tone: The viewpoints are summarized fairly and accurately without inserting the student's bias or opinion.	25 to 20	20 to 17	17 to 15	14 to 0	
Examples for support: Are the articles you chose relevant to your research topic? Do you address all three articles?	15 to 12	11 to 9	9 to 7	7 to 0	
Surface level writing: Are there grammatical errors, are sentences too wordy, is the syntax clear, is the spelling correct? Do you follow genre conventions?	5	3	2	0	
MLA citations: Do you cite your sources accurately and consistently?	5	3	2	0	
				Total Points	150