

# STRUCTURING AND WRITING A LITERATURE REVIEW

## A suggested structure

**This is a suggested structure only. If your tutor gives you a different structure, you must follow it.**

### INTRODUCTION

- Start with an introductory sentence which introduces the key subject area and the aims of the literature review
- Describe in more detail, the key subject area covered in the literature review
- Say which related subject areas are not covered in the review

### MAIN BODY (middle section)

- Structure the work into sections
  - group different topics into broad themes
  - put topics in order which links them together; for example by related ideas or chronology (sequence of publication or events)
- Arrange each section in the same way; for example
  - start with a general description or definition of the topic
  - discuss and critically evaluate the literature
  - talk about how the literature relates to the main subject area of the literature review
- Direct the reader when there is crossover of material; for example:
  - “as discussed in the previous section”
  - “which will be discussed in detail in section 2.1”

### CONCLUSION

- Briefly summarise the main points of your middle section, relating them to the key subject area of the literature review
- Bring everything together in your conclusion, and match it with the introduction