

REASONS FOR WRITING A LITERATURE REVIEW

You may be asked to write a literature review:

- as an alternative to an essay
- as part of an essay or of a longer piece of work, such as a dissertation
- to improve your literature searching skills
- to give you an understanding of the literature in a subject area
- to develop your critical analysis skills

A LITERATURE REVIEW AIMS TO ACHIEVE

- it gives the reader a 'feel' for the subject area, in terms of what is important and what is not
- it puts current research into the context of its subject area
- it shows the relationships between different people's work
- it identifies gaps in the existing literature