

Review Option

The department requirement for the Master of Arts in Education may be met through completion of a scholarly review. The purpose of such a review is to identify and solve a problem by analyzing information from appropriate literature.

Conditions under which a review is especially useful include the following:

- (1) When research and scholarly works related to a specific problem appear to present ambiguous or conflicting results, and there is a need to select a most likely means to solve a problem.
- (2) When published research and scholarly works related to a problem area appear in isolated and varied disciplines, and there is a need to discover the contributions from within each discipline in order to use them in the solution of a specific problem.
- (3) When you have identified a problem which is best resolved by analyzing information usually found in published or related sources.

A review shall include the following major components. In addition to these sections, which report on the stages of the review process, your paper should also include: title and approval pages (samples attached), a table of contents, an abstract, and a bibliography/list of references. Other divisions and sub-sections may be included.

I. Introduction

Describe the problem which the review will help resolve and indicate why an analysis of existing information is appropriate for addressing this problem. The introduction should also present the importance of the problem, the scope of the review, and how the results of the review might be applied. The problem may be made specific by presenting one or more questions for which the review will provide answers.

II. Methodology

Explain the method of identifying and locating sources, the rationale for selecting the sources to analyze, the procedures to be used in analyzing the sources, and the criteria for evaluating the information found.

III. Analysis and Discussion

Present evidence and ideas summarized from the sources analyzed. This review is driven by the problem presented, and by sub-topics related to that problem. Therefore, individual sources are to be reviewed, not as isolated entities, but with attention to the contribution they make to the topic under discussion. Information based on personal experience, observations, or interviews may be included as a means of clarifying questions, exemplifying research conclusions, or as a source of new information. The source and limitations of such supplementary information should be clearly stated. An evaluation of the quality or adequacy of the related sources may also be included. This evaluation may relate to individual works, or to characteristics of several investigations available on a specific topic. This review, then, is a result of a search for the information which will provide the most useful answers available for your research questions.

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

Identify and synthesize findings from the analysis as the conclusion of the review. Recommendations for future research, classroom applications, educational policies and procedures, program revision, or other warranted situations should be presented.