

# Literature Review

Your task is to write a 3 to 5-page document that will serve as the Literature Review (*i.e.* Paper Introduction) for your Research Paper. This document will provide background and serve to contextualize the research question/engineering goal.

The Literature Review will fit into the sequence of essential sections of a research paper which includes the following sections:

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction (*i.e.* Literature Review)
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Analysis and Conclusions
- Limitations
- Bibliography

Your literature review must be organized around and related directly to the research question or goal you are developing. This is where you showcase the background research you have been engaged in during the past few months. It is a good time to discuss what is and what is not known about your topic. Ideally, the narrative should begin with a broader context into which your topic fits and narrow down to your research question or engineering goal. Previous work and perspectives related to the project should be woven into the discourse as well as the identification of any areas of controversy in the literature.

As you compose the Literature Review, it is useful to keep in mind your responses to some questions such as:

- What is the specific question or goal that my review helps to define?
- What exactly am I researching: issues, methodology, policy, quantitative research?
- What is the scope of my literature review? What types of publications am I using? What discipline am I working in?

The last paragraph should be used to identify the gap in knowledge that will be addressed as well as the specific question or goal for the project. When I assess your Literature Review, I will be looking for how you included evidence gathered from at least two previous research investigations related to your topic.