

## Characteristics of an Effective Literature Review

### *Individually*

Review the handout on rhetorical reading. Read the article, making comments in the margins to ask questions and/or write comments about what's working well and what is not. Be specific. Also, next to each paragraph, write a one to two-sentence summary of it.

### *With a Partner*

Together, discuss and respond to each of the questions below focusing on the literature review, what it does, how it does it, and how it contributes to the article overall. Make sure that both of you can explain and defend each of your responses.

1. What is the title of this article? In what ways is it insightful? How does it indicate the topic to the reader? In what ways could it be improved?
2. What topic does the author take a stance on in this article?
3. Describe the introduction of the article. How does the author introduce the topic and the stance being taken? Site specific example(s). In what ways could the introduction be improved? Explain.
4. What is the aim being of the article? How is it relevant to the field overall? How does it relate to the article's problem statement? Explain.
5. Refer to the brief summaries of each paragraph to create a backwards outline you constructed for this essay. Describe the overall structure of the literature review. In what ways does the organization enhance the development of the central claim? How could it be improved? Explain.
6. What support and evidence from researched sources is provided to support the claim made in the problem statement? In what ways does the author critically engage the evidence? How well integrated is the evidence integrated into the author's writing? How could it be improved?
7. Identify at least 3 specific examples where the author utilizes pathos, logos, or ethos throughout the essay. In what ways are these effective appeals to the audience? Explain. In what ways could these examples or other areas could be improved with the use of one or more of these appeals? Explain where and how.
8. Identify at least 2 specific examples where the author's writing is clear, fluid, and error-free. What effect(s) do these sections have on the paper overall? What effect(s) do these sections have on you as a reader? Explain.
9. Describe the conclusion of the article. How does the author use summary? Cite examples. How does the author use synthesis? Cite examples.
10. Describe the formatting of the essay – page layout, page headers, and works cited. Are in-text citations and the source list complete? Do they meet the style guidelines? If not, how could they be improved?