Differences between a Good and a Poor Literature Review

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A Good Literature Review is organized around a coherent set of questions. A Poor Literature Review rambles from topic to topic without a clear focus.

A Good Literature Review includes the major landmark or classic studies related to the questions guiding the study. A Poor Literature Review omits landmark or classic studies or mixes them with trivial studies without making distinctions about quality or relevance.

A Good Literature Review acknowledges the author's biases. As well as the limitations of the review process. A Poor Literature Review assumes an omniscient voice without acknowledging biases and limitations.

A Good Literature Review critically evaluates the quality of the research according to clear criteria. A Poor Literature Review simply summarizes research findings without critical evaluation.

A Good Literature Review uses quotes, illustrations, graphs, and/or tables to present and justify the critical analysis of the literature. A Poor Literature Review simply lists studies without presenting any critical evidence in the form of quotes, illustrations, graphs, and/or tables.

A Good Literature Review takes the form of a logical argument that concludes with a clear rationale for additional research. A Poor Literature Review does not present a logical argument and fails to build a clear rationale for additional research.

A Good Literature Review is interesting to read because it is clear, coherent, and systematic in its organization and presentation. A Poor Literature Review is boring or obtuse because of the overuse of jargon and pretentious language and the lack of organization.

A Good Literature Review presents research evidence in a meaningful chronological order. A Poor Literature Review mixes studies from different decades without acknowledging chronological developments.

A Good Literature Review has an accurate and up-to-date bibliography that adheres to recognised style Guidelines. A Poor Literature Review has inaccurate or missing references that are poorly formatted.

A Good Literature Review is eminently publishable. A Poor Literature Review will never see the light of day.

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