

Boys vs. Girls

Learning Styles and Education – A Review of Literature

The learning styles between boys and girls are very different. These days you may find classrooms segregated by sex or curriculum adapted to the learning styles of boys and or girls.

It's your turn, to **research the topic of how boys and girls learn differently and come up with a Review of Literature**. Your review will express the current ideologies that are out in society today.

Question: After you conduct some preliminary research on EBSCOhost ONLY! You are to come up with a question that you hope to be able to prove on your own. Your question should lead you to many articles about the same topic so you are able to have an abundance of information to present

Based on the articles you are reading, you are to come up with a 'hypothesis' / 'thesis' that you will uncover and be able to present the current literature on that topic.

Where to I get my information?

Using **EBSCOhost ONLY**, you are to **locate 4-6 articles** on your specific topic. Possible topics:

Schools don't accommodate boys' learning styles

Can single sex classes improve learning?

Are there gender differences in mathematics?

Once you get comfortable with EBSCO you will be able to see common themes and be able to explore your topic more easily. All articles should support one position. Include supporting evidence from your articles on why or how your hypothesis is true. The paper should be a minimum of 3-4 pages typed and you will be graded on your written presentation of the material, NOT your hypothesis.

EBSCO HOST @ Home - <http://search.epnet.com> **Login:** smcdsb **Password:** research

YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL → To write a formal Review of Literature.

What is a Literature Review?

A literature review is a concise overview of what has been studied, argued, and established about a topic, and it is usually organized chronologically or thematically. A literature review is written in essay format. It is not an annotated bibliography, because **it groups related works together and discusses trends and developments rather than focusing on one item at a time. It is not a summary;** rather, it evaluates previous and current research in regard to how relevant and/or useful it is and how it relates to your own research. *A Literature Review is **more** than an Annotated Bibliography or a summary, because you are organizing and presenting your sources in terms of their overall relationship to your own project.*

Purpose

A literature review is written to highlight specific arguments and ideas in a field of study. By highlighting these arguments, the writer attempts to show what has been studied in the field, and also where the weaknesses, gaps, or areas needing further study are. The review should therefore also demonstrate to the reader why the writer's research is useful, necessary, important, and valid.

Thematic: In a thematic review, you will group and discuss your sources in terms of the themes or topics they cover. This method is often a stronger one organizationally, and it can help you resist the urge to summarize your sources. By grouping themes or topics of research together, you will be able to demonstrate the types of topics that are important to your research. For example, if the topic of the literature review is changes in popular music, then there might be separate sections on research involving the production of music, research on the dissemination of music, research on the interpretation of music, and historical studies of popular music.

No matter which method you choose, remember: Within each section of a literature review, it is important to discuss how the research relates to other studies (how is it similar or different, what other studies have been done, etc.) as well as to demonstrate how it relates to your own work. This is what the review is for: don't leave this connection out! St. Mary's University. (2009, March 3) *Writing a Literature Review*. Retrieved from <http://www.smu.ca/administration/library/litrev.html>