

University Of Abdelhafid Boussof-Mila

Faculty of Economics, Commercial &

Management Sciences

**Lecture three: Conducting Literature Reviews and Citing Sources
(APA & MLA)**



Addressed To master one Students-Semester 2

Prepared & Presented by:

Ms. SARA MEZHOUD

Teacher of English Language

Academic Year 2025-2026

1. Introduction

Conducting a literature review and citing sources are essential components of academic research writing. A literature review helps researchers understand previous studies related to their topic, while citation allows them to give credit to original authors and avoid plagiarism. In academic research, scholars must rely on credible sources such as books, journal articles, and academic papers to support their arguments.

Moreover, citation styles such as APA and MLA provide clear rules for referencing sources and organizing research papers. Therefore, mastering literature review writing and citation styles is necessary for producing high-quality academic research and maintaining academic integrity.

2. Definition of Literature Review

A literature review is a section of academic research that examines and analyzes previous studies related to a specific topic.

It involves:

- Searching for academic sources
- Reading and analyzing studies
- Summarizing previous research
- Comparing different findings
- Identifying research gaps

In simple terms, a literature review shows what has already been studied and what still needs to be studied.

3. Purpose of Literature Review

The literature review serves several important purposes.

1. Understanding Previous Research

It helps the researcher know what other scholars have written.

2. Identifying Research Gaps

It shows missing areas in previous studies.

3. Supporting Research Problem

It provides evidence for the research problem.

4. Avoiding Duplication

It prevents repeating the same research.

5. Building Theoretical Background

It connects the research with theories and concepts.

4. Types of Literature Review

Descriptive Literature Review

Summarizes previous studies without deep analysis.

Analytical Literature Review

Compares and evaluates different studies.

Theoretical Literature Review

Focuses on theories and models.

Systematic Literature Review

Collects and analyzes studies in a structured way.

5. Steps in Conducting a Literature Review

Step 1: Choosing Keywords

The researcher selects keywords related to the topic.

Example:

- Academic writing
- Research skills
- EFL students
- Writing difficulties

Step 2: Searching for Sources

Sources include:

- Academic journals
- Books
- Research articles
- Theses and dissertations
- Conference papers

Step 3: Reading and Evaluating Sources

The researcher should check:

- Author credibility
- Publication date
- Research method
- Relevance to topic

Step 4: Organizing Information

Sources should be grouped by:

- Themes
- Topics
- Theories
- Findings

Step 5: Writing the Literature Review

The researcher summarizes and analyzes previous studies.

Example:

Smith (2020) found that EFL students face difficulties in academic writing due to lack of practice. Similarly, Brown (2021) argued that writing instruction should focus on research skills.

6. Definition of Citation

Citation is the process of giving credit to the original authors whose ideas or words are used in research.

It helps:

- Avoid plagiarism
- Show academic honesty
- Support arguments
- Provide evidence
- Guide readers to sources

7. Importance of Citing Sources

Citing sources is important because:

- It respects intellectual property
- It increases research credibility
- It avoids plagiarism
- It supports academic arguments
- It allows readers to verify information

Academic writing without citation is considered unethical.

8. APA Citation Style

APA stands for American Psychological Association.

It is commonly used in:

- Education
- Linguistics
- Psychology
- Social sciences

APA In-Text Citation

Author and year format.

Example:

(Smith, 2020) or

Smith (2020) stated that academic writing is essential.

APA Reference List

Book Example:

Smith, J. (2020). Academic writing skills. Oxford University Press.

Article Example:

Brown, A. (2021). Teaching writing in EFL classrooms. *Journal of Education*, 10(2), 45-60.

9. MLA Citation Style

MLA stands for Modern Language Association.

It is commonly used in:

- Literature
- Languages
- Humanities

MLA In-Text Citation

Author and page number.

Example:

(Smith 45) or

Smith argues that academic writing is important (45).

MLA Works Cited

Book Example:

Smith, John. *Academic Writing Skills*. Oxford University Press, 2020.

Article Example:

Brown, Adam. "Teaching Writing in EFL Classrooms." *Journal of Education*, vol. 10, no. 2, 2021, pp. 45-60.

10. Difference Between APA and MLA

APA

- Uses author and year
- Used in social sciences
- Includes publication year in-text
- Reference list called References
- Focus on date of publication

MLA

- Uses author and page number
- Used in humanities
- Includes page number in-text
- Reference list called Works Cited
- Focus on author and text

Common Mistakes in Literature Review and Citation

Using weak sources

Avoid blogs and unreliable websites.

Copying without citation

This leads to plagiarism.

Poor organization

Literature review should be structured.

Mixing citation styles

Use only one style.

Incorrect referencing

Follow APA or MLA rules carefully.

Conclusion

Conducting a literature review and citing sources are essential skills in academic research writing. A literature review helps researchers understand previous studies and identify research gaps, while citation ensures academic honesty and credibility. APA and MLA citation styles provide clear guidelines for referencing sources and organizing academic work.

Therefore, mastering literature review writing and citation styles is necessary for producing high-quality academic research and avoiding plagiarism.