

## Literature Matrix Worksheet\*

**MAIN QUESTION (Complex Problem or Issue to be Solved):**

**Sub-question #1**

**Sub-question #2**

**Sub-question #3**

“THEY SAY” *								“I SAY” *
SOURCE Author(s) and (Publication Date)	MAIN POINT (Claim)	HYPOTHESES THEORIES ASSUMPTIONS	METHODS	DATA Sub-question #1	DATA Sub-question #2	DATA Sub-question #3	CONCLUSIONS	COMMENTS (Analysis)
Journal Article #1								
Journal Article #2								
Journal Article #3								
Journal Article #4								



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### INSTRUCTIONS:

**Working with one relevant peer-reviewed article at a time, complete the Literature Matrix following Steps 1-9.**

- Step 1 – QUESTIONS/SUBQUESTIONS – at the top of the matrix, write your main question (or problem) to be solved by your research and the subquestions (or sub-problems) related to each of the disciplines of your interdisciplinary study.
- Step 2 – SOURCES – in row #1 of the matrix, enter the author(s)' last name(s) and year of publication for a peer-reviewed journal article on your topic. Corresponding to this, begin constructing a separate list of references (works cited or bibliography) using APA, MLA or Chicago citation format of your choice (in consultation with your faculty mentor). Be consistent throughout your matrix and reference list.
- Step 3 – MAIN POINT (Thesis/Claim) – in the next column of row #1, state in your own words the main point, thesis, or claim of Source #1.
- Step 4 – HYPOTHESES, THEORIES, ASSUMPTIONS – following that same row in the matrix, briefly state in your own words the main hypotheses, theories and/or assumptions, if any, found in this source.
- Step 5 – METHODOLOGY/METHODS – next, state approach author(s) used to gather and/or analyze data: e.g. quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, other (specify); also, survey, interviews, document analysis, etc.
- Step 6 – DATA – under the appropriate column in row #1, write a brief note and enter page number(s) of information that supports or refutes subquestions #1-3. Note: not all data columns may have data for this source; conversely, all the data columns may be full.
- Step 7 – CONCLUSIONS – next in row #1, state in your own words the main conclusion(s) of this source from the author(s)' perspective. Save your comments until the last column in row #1.
- Step 8 – COMMENTS – briefly state your analysis of this article, and if you agree or disagree with the interpretation of the results of this source; What is interesting or important; How it is related or not related to your topic; What are the strengths or weaknesses of this article, etc.? How does this article compare with other sources you have found on your topic?
- Step 9 – REPEAT – the process for each additional source on your list of references to complete the matrix, one source per row in the matrix. Expand the matrix as needed by adding more rows. Right click the bottom row and select insert rows below or above.

\*Notes – For additional information on:

- The construction of a research matrix using a basic MS Excel template, see the following website: [http://earbirding.com/students/matrix\\_template.xls](http://earbirding.com/students/matrix_template.xls).
- Templates to scaffold academic writing see G. Graff & C. Birkenstein (2014). *They say, I say: The moves that matter in academic writing* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

