

## Literature Review

A literature review can be an assignment in itself, or it can be part of a larger project. Its goal is to offer an overview and a critical evaluation of the literature on a given topic. Rather than addressing several sources or authors one after another, it analyzes the literature as a whole in order to present the major ideas, theories, concepts, and debates pertaining to a topic, and to reveal the gaps in the literature that would justify the use of conducting a research project on this topic.

This resource is not exhaustive and does not replace the writing instructions given in class. In case of any doubt, consult the professor before structuring your paper as it is indicated here.

### Introduction

**Context:** Get the reader's attention and introduce your topic.

**Thesis:** Present your research question. What do you want to address? What is your position? What sparked your interest for this topic?

**Outline:** Show the use of conducting a research project on this topic. What could be accomplished? Why would it be worthwhile? What new insights could it bring?

### Body

Present the information that is contained in the literature to uncover the questions that remain unanswered.

Although some historians make a correlation between the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches and the retention of Ukrainian culture and language by Ukrainian immigrants in Canada, little has been said of the role of the Roman Catholic Church in the development of Ukrainian communities in Canada. (Gap in the literature)

How has the Roman Catholic Church shaped Ukrainian Canadian identity? (Research question)

- Do active reading. Start by reading the abstract and the headings in order to identify the author's thesis and the source's main ideas. Then, read the source from start to finish and highlight the key terms. Record the relevant information in a reading journal.
- Compare the sources. Note recurrent ideas, theories, concepts, and debates in order to identify dominant trends and themes in the literature. Sort the relevant material by theme, by keyword, or according to any other relevant factor.
- Organize your ideas in a clear and coherent way so that the reader can easily follow your paper. If necessary, use headings to clarify its progression.

### Conclusion

**Summary:** Summarize the information that you have drawn from your research and show the gaps in the literature. What has already been explored? What could be gained from further exploration?

**Final thought:** Make a final comment that reaffirms the use of conducting a research project on this topic.