



# HOW TO WRITE A REVIEW

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# REVIEW TOPIC

- A review, is an overview of current thinking on the theme and, unlike an original research article, won't present new experimental results.
- If you've been working on a topic for a while, writing a review article gives you the opportunity to share what you've learnt.
- Review articles can also provide recommendations for potential research areas to explore next.

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# WHAT DO YOU NEED TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU START WRITING?

- Define the scope of your review so that it is manageable, not too large or small;
- It may be necessary to focus on recent advances if the field is well established.
- Gather research for your introduction, making it broad enough to reach out to a large audience of non-specialists.
- Before writing the core review section, define key points you wish to collate and compare.

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# REVIEW

Review material are divided into 2 categories

**Narrative review** ( means use of articles collected for years)

- narrative reviews are written in an easily readable format
- allow consideration of the subject matter within a large spectrum.

**Systematic review**

- very detailed, comprehensive literature surveying on the selected topic
- is based on struggles to search for, and find the best possible researches
- will respond to the questions predetermined at the start of the review.
- In a systematic review on a focused question, methods of investigation used should be clearly specified.

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# REVIEW

A review article contains the following **key elements**:

- **The question(s)** to be dealt with
- **Methods used** to find out, and select the best quality researches
- **To respond** to these questions.
- **To synthesize** available, but quite different researches

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# REVIEW

- **The title** would be useful to contain the word ***review*** (for a difference of a presentation page)
- **Text** structured in short paragraphs (4-5 lines) with bold on keywords, uses scanning, using the list for features.
- **Links** and **pictures** are also required

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# FINDING SOURCES TO EVALUATE

- The careful study of the journals made in the field or its tangent will allow the **extraction of the elements on** which the emphasis will have to be emphasized.
- “use multiple search engines/databases so you don’t miss any important ones.”
- For finding studies for a systematic review in medical sciences,

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# INTRODUCE THE TOPIC

- Start with an overview of the topic and give some context
- Explain why a review of the topic is necessary.
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- Gather research to inform your introduction and make it broad enough to reach out to a large audience of non-specialists.
- This will help maximize its wider relevance and impact.
- Don't make your introduction too long.
- Divide the review into sections of a suitable length **to allow key points to be identified more easily.**



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# REVIEW

## **Know who you are writing for**

- Writing a literature review, you become an ambassador for the subject
- You no longer summarize the literature, but instead provide reasoning like an expert in the subject, and this is crucial
- The review will have to be included in the general note of the topic chosen to be studied
- It will be written in the style with which the community to which it is addressed is already familiar.
- If this topic has not been develop before, a personal style will have to be outlined as it can be considered that the public could be attracted.

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# REVIEW

**To display a point of view as clearly as possible.**

- Your evaluation will not be completed in an ambiguous / indefinite note,
- A position must be adopted that will remain in the reader's mind (did you like it or not)
- This should not be stated in an explicit way (Yes, I liked it) but from the share of mentioned pluses or minuses.
- Consequently, the text will have to be allowed „to speak its self“.
- It is very important not to give the impression that you started with preconceived ideas, it will affect the quality of equidistance.

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# REVIEW

## **Write informed**

- The extensive and related documentation of the subject will demonstrate that the author knows the subject.
- The documentation must follow the relevant elements depending on the chosen topic.
- In the chosen theme it will be necessary to know when the first time was presented and what was the course of the theme with the top elements.
- When referring to other similar topics or if a more special technique is used, then these elements should be explicitly mentioned.

# REVIEW

## 5 top tips

1. Keep the language simple. Assume that your audience are not experts in the field.
2. Use referencing software – you are never going to get the article exactly right on first draft. To make life easier, invest time to learn this skill.
3. Get the outline of the review right – your review will likely require multiple iterations, and a strong outline can make things easier further down the line.
4. Always try to include the highest quality version of the images, and always invest time drawing the schematics as best you can (I always go back to the Figures I liked in the literature before I start making my versions).
5. Lastly, take the opportunity of writing a literature review seriously. This is not just an opportunity for you to get an article published, but also to get started with your research. Developing a good understanding of the field you will be working on, beforehand, expedites your progress immensely.

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**From Syed Ghazi Sarwat, University of Oxford**