Literature Review Synthesis Matrix

A synthesis matrix is one way to organize your sources. You can compare, contrast, and categorize your different sources by key concepts, themes, or main ideas. This visual representation of how your research relates will help you organize your sources logically and efficiently.

Instructions: Complete this matrix by identifying your key concepts, and then write down a few bulleted notes on each source. Note the page numbers if you include direct quotes or paraphrases of specific ideas.

In Microsoft Word, click anywhere in the table and then use the Layout tab in the Table Tools to insert additional rows and columns as needed.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Literature Review STUDY SUMMARIES** | | | | | | | | | |
| Author/title | Purpose | Framework | Sample | Design | Variables/ instruments | Results | Controversies, disagreements with other authors | Limitations | Implications for practice, research, theory |
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You might also find this table useful to compare studies by variable or theme:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Author (s), title | Year | Variable or Theme 1 | Variable or Theme 2 | Variable or Theme 3 | Variable or Theme 4 |
|  |  |  |  | X | X |
|  |  | X | X |  | X |
|  |  | X | X | X |  |
|  |  | X | X |  | X |

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| *Modified by Megan Fitzgibbons, Concordia University.*  *Originally created by Nita Bryant, Virginia Commonwealth University.* [*CC BY-NC-SA 4.0*](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/) |