

Literature Summary

Key Themes/Topics	
Author	Date:
Title	Place of publication: Date
What is the problem or issue formulated?	Could it have been approached from a different perspective? (suggest)
What is the author's theoretical framework??	What has not been included or discussed?
A research study	
What are the basic components of the study design? Numbers; selection; method; measurements	Accuracy, relevance and validity What has not been included?
Argument Structure	
Outline the logic of the argument	Are there areas where the argument breaks down?
Contribution	
How does it contribute to my area? How is it useful?	What are the strengths?
	What are the limitations?

Literature Summary

An Example

Key Themes/Topics: <i>Ethnicity, Japanese Americans, Generations</i>	
Author: <i>Spickard, P</i>	Date: <i>1998</i>
Title <i>Japanese Americans: The Formation of an Ethnic Group</i>	Place of publication: <i>Twayne Publishers</i> Place: <i>New York</i>
What is the problem or issue formulated? <i>Aims to address how JA as an ethnicity has developed and the historical implications and contributions</i>	Could it have been approached from a different perspective? (suggest) <i>More discussion on other JA e.g Hawaii</i> <i>Could have outlined wider American issues rather than focusing on those directly impacting Japanese</i>
What is the author's theoretical framework? <i>Ethno-histographical; sociological</i>	What has not been included or discussed? <i>See Limitations</i>
A research study	
What are the basic components of the study design? Numbers; selection; method; measurements <i>N/A</i>	Accuracy, relevance and validity What has not been included? <i>N/A</i>
Argument Structure	
Outline the logic of the argument <i>Japanese American are shaped by their past</i> <i>Lists key events (such as WWII, immigration) to support this</i> <i>Concludes that they are an ethnic group based on history, challenges</i>	Are there areas where the argument breaks down? <i>Could be interesting to compare this with other migrant Japanese ethnic groups (e.g.) to Peru</i> <i>Does not indicate where mixed JA fit – are they a part of this group?</i> <i>Is history the main factor? What ongoing aspects help shape this group?</i>
Contribution	
How does it contribute to understanding of the problem? How is it useful? <i>Contextualises the JA experience within a historical and political setting.</i>	What are the strengths? <i>Detailed and thorough presentation of date</i>
	What are the limitations? <i>As above – little info about JA in Hawaii,</i> <i>little info about women's experience,</i> <i>Does not challenge the representation of JA</i>