Term Paper Outline

1. Introduction 2-3 pages

The goal of the introduction section is to set the stage for your paper. Think about these questions – What is the focus of the literature review? What is the significance of this area (Why should we care?)? Answer these questions with a convincing articulation based on brief review of existing literature. Clearly communicate the focus area of the paper with an argument that builds upon existing research in this area.

2. Method 0.5 – 1 page

In this section, you are expected to describe the archival method that was used in the review and synthesis. Consider these questions – What academic databases did you search? What keywords were used? Were there any other criteria, e.g., time period, language, geographical region? How many articles, book chapters and books did you identify? Did you conduct a screening for further relevance? How many items were eventually included in this paper?

3. Major Issues and Findings 12-14 pages

This is the “core” of your paper that presents the major/key issues and related findings within your focus. This section could be hierarchically organized by the key issues and constituting sub-issues. The section is a combination of descriptive account and critical commentary. Find commonalities of issues and findings across the various items you review and synthesize the materials that convey the “lay of the land.”

4. Gaps in the Literature 0.5 - 1 page

Briefly identify what issues or relationships are missing or inadequate. Quite often this can be gathered from the conclusion section of the articles.

5. Conceptual Framework 3-4 pages

Develop a conceptual framework presented in a “bubble diagram” and narrative. Refer to the class discussion on conceptual framework. The objective of the narrative is not to describe all the concepts and relationships, but highlight the key ones (either supported by existing empirical evidence or conceptually theorized).

6. Research Agenda 0.5 - 1 page

Building upon the previous two items, briefly present key directions for future research directions. Issues of research methods might be relevant as well.
7. **Conclusion**  
Very briefly summarize section 3, highlight the value of the conceptual framework and future research priorities.

8. **References**  
Use APA style. See [www.lib.sfu.ca/help/writing/apa](http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/writing/apa) for APA guide.


9. **Appendix – Summary Review Table**  
Refer to class discussion and the table in Day et al article (shared as a reference item). Include the items that were most relevant. This table does not need to be exhaustive in terms of all the items from the reference list. In terms of format, use at minimum the following columns – reference, focus, method, and key findings.

**Paper length should be 23-25 pages double-spaced excluding references and appendix.**

**Final comment:**

Review *Day et al.*, and *Chaudhury et al.*, articles carefully to get a better sense of the integrative nature of a literature review paper.