Evaluating a Literature Review

Provided below is a list of areas, for both content and APA, of the literature review you should focus on when providing constructive criticism to your peer. This is not an exhaustive list, but should get you started as you evaluate your peer’s literature review draft.

Evaluating Content

1. Background information about the problem is provided.
2. The problem is clearly stated.
3. The problem is significant.
4. Important terms are defined.
5. Assumptions are clearly stated.
6. The literature provided is relevant.
7. Sufficient information about the literature is provided.
8. Relationships between underlying causes/factors/drivers is established.
9. Limitations of the literature are clearly stated.
10. Research questions are appropriate.

Evaluating APA

1. Correct headings are used.
2. Writing is objective.
3. Transitions are provided (the author tells you what he/she is going to tell you, the author tells you, the author tells you what he/she just told you)
4. Writing is succinct.
5. Correct use of in-text citations.
7. One space between sentences.

As you review your peer’s literature review, refer to the readings from the first session, particularly The Thinker’s Guide to How to Write a Paragraph: The Art of Substantive Writing: How to Say Something Worth Saying about Something Worth Saying Something About (Elder, Paul, & Foundation for Critical Thinking (2007). There is a checklist towards the end of this reading that can guide you as you complete your review.