A literature review summarizes the relevant research on a topic. It should relate to the topic of your paper and clarify how your research will add to the ideas expressed by other scholars.

The focus of a literature review is on drawing conclusions about the findings of other researchers. Writing about what scholars have said about a topic is different from writing about the topic. Below are some sample ways you can analyze the ideas of others:

**Developments of Perspectives over Time:**
Originally, Kanicov (2009) proposed…
Perspectives began to change when Jamison (1999) discovered that…
In the 1990s, it was common for scholars to hold this position, but since 2000…

**Themes/Common Perspectives:**
The most common recommendation in reports on this topic is…
Some scholars oppose the argument proposed by Little (2004) because…
A perspective frequently held by scholars studying this topic is…

**Comparisons/Contrasts:**
Johnson (2010) has taken this idea further by…
Gordon (2014) opposed this position because…
Many researchers agree with the conclusions of Jackson (2010), but a few stipulate that…

**Strengths/Weaknesses:**
A strength of Smith’s (2009) argument is…
A drawback in Thoren’s (2016) method is…
The perspectives of Rose (2009) and Whyte (2011) have succeeded in…

**Gaps:**
Wong’s (2014) study did not go as far as to discuss…
Despite many scholars discussing this topic, none have yet addressed the issue of…
Dufferin (2011) raised a question about…