**Title of Your Paper Here**

Your Name Here

Capella University

PSYC4600: Research Methods in Psychology

Literature Review

Instructor

Month, Year

[Enter Paper Title]

**[NOTE: Read all the explanatory information. Delete the explanatory text before you submit your assignment.]**

[Open with an introduction to your topic. Explain the key research question. Then explain why this question is important. Introduce and define any key words or concepts that the reader will need to know to understand your topic. Highlight your three main points. Based on the research you’ve done into this topic, you should be able to divide your evidence into two or three main points or areas. To find your main ideas, as you read the articles about your topic, take notes on what they have in common and how they are different. See if you can create “buckets” of information that start to form ideas or points. Use this division to organize the rest of your literature review.]

**Subheading 1** [**Change heading to reflect relevant ideas within your paper.** Add or remove topic headings as necessary].

[Write an ***integrative*** literature review with a minimum of seven peer-reviewed journal articles as sources. This means that you should not discuss each article individually, but rather think about the themes within the articles as a whole and discuss the themes and topics within your paper, using multiple articles to support each theme or topic. Be sure to provide in-text citations in APA style formatting when using information from your sources. If you are a writer who likes “recipes” for good writing, then use evidence from at least two different sources in every paragraph. It’s the MEAL+ plan. Start with a **M**ain idea, include **E**vidence from source 1, then evidence from source 2, then an **A**nalysis which shows how the two pieces of evidence relate to each other and to your main idea, and lastly, **L**ink this paragraph to the next paragraph. Think back to the elements of critical thinking. (You can use the “Analytic Style of Thinking” Campus resource in your Week 9 study). A literature review explores the purpose, questions at issue, concepts, assumptions, and point of view that exist about a specific topic.]

**Subheading 2**

[The objective of the integrative literature review is to provide your reader an overview of the current research on your topic. What have other researchers found about retraction, false balance, or myth busting? You will want to include the key findings from the research articles on your topic. Discuss how the findings are similar and how they are different. Focus on major themes rather than simple summaries of individual articles. By the end of the literature review, the reader should feel they understand what is currently known about your topic.]

**Subheading 3**

[Another purpose of a literature review is to show the reader how different researchers have tried to study a topic. Often, researchers take different approaches and these differences each have strengths and weaknesses. If you noticed all the research articles used the same approach to studying the topic, you can describe it and share that this is a commonly accepted method. If you noticed that the research articles used different approaches, you can discuss how the approaches are similar and how they are different.]

**Limitations**

[Discuss the limitations of the current research/theories related to your topic. The final purpose of the literature review is to demonstrate why more research, specifically your research, is needed. This can be because you found a gap in the literature—a question that has not been answered yet. It could be because the results of the study need replication (due to questions on the methods used, or the results were inconsistent with other studies, or the study used too small a pool of participants to be representative of the general public). Your discussion of limitations is a great place to set up why your research study will be important.].

**Theory and Hypothesis**

[Describe the theory that will guide your research. If you are unsure about a theory, see the materials provided for your chosen topic. Explain how the theory relates to your topic—how does it help predict what people will do or think. Discuss how your theory relates to your hypothesis. A good hypothesis will be based on the chosen theory. Basically, if the theory is true, what will be the results of your study?]

[Clearly state the hypothesis for your paper. Remember that a good hypothesis is both specific and measurable. Your hypothesis should relate to the materials provided on your topic. These are the materials that you will be using to collect data from your participants, so the hypothesis must be directly related to the data you are collecting. Your hypothesis should relate to one of the following materials: retraction, myth busting, or false balance. NOTE: You can find more information about a possible hypotheses in the materials provided for your study.]

**Variables**

[Use this language]: The independent variable will be [enter variable] as defined as [operational definition]. The dependent variable will be [enter variable]. [Your variables must directly relate to your hypothesis. Notes: The independent variable will be the one that you control. The dependent variable is the one that you will measure. An operational definition is how a variable will be defined so that it can be tested and measured. For example, misinformation may be a variable…but how do you measure misinformation? It might be operationally defined as belief in a specific piece of misinformation or memory of a specific piece of misinformation. Use the information provided to you in the materials on your topic to guide your selection of variables and the operational definition of each.]

References

[Include an APA style reference for all sources cited in the text above.]