

Comprehensive Literature Review Checklist for DBA Scholars

A. Purpose & DBA Alignment

- ■ Literature review supports a clearly defined practice-based business problem
- ■ Problem is grounded in real organizational or industry context
- ■ Clear distinction between academic theory and managerial practice
- ■ Practical relevance is consistently emphasized

B. Research Problem & Questions

- ■ Research problem is specific, focused, and researchable
- ■ Research questions are derived from the literature
- ■ Key constructs and variables are clearly defined
- ■ Context (industry, sector, geography) is explicit

C. Search Strategy & Coverage

- ■ Systematic search strategy documented
- ■ Multiple academic databases used
- ■ Inclusion and exclusion criteria defined
- ■ Seminal and recent studies included
- ■ Practitioner literature critically evaluated

D. Theoretical Foundations

- ■ Relevant theories identified and explained
- ■ Theories linked directly to the research problem
- ■ Competing theories discussed
- ■ Theoretical gaps clearly articulated

E. Organization & Synthesis

- ■ Literature organized thematically
- ■ Clear conceptual structure
- ■ Relationships between themes explained
- ■ Conceptual framework proposed or implied

F. Critical Analysis

- ■ Studies compared and contrasted
- ■ Methodological strengths and weaknesses discussed
- ■ Contradictions and inconsistencies identified
- ■ Clear evidence-based research gap established

G. Practice–Theory Integration

- ■ Theory linked to real-world business practice
- ■ Practice-based implications discussed
- ■ Theory–practice gap demonstrated
- ■ Managerial relevance highlighted

H. Methodological Insights

- ■ Common methods in prior studies identified
- ■ Methodological gaps justified
- ■ Research design aligned with DBA standards

I. Contribution & Value

- ■ Clear academic and practical contribution
- ■ Contribution is realistic and well-scoped
- ■ Study positioned within existing literature

J. Writing & Referencing

- ■ Doctoral-level academic tone
- ■ Logical flow and transitions
- ■ Consistent citation style (APA 7 recommended)
- ■ No plagiarism or citation errors