

Literature Review Economics Sample: How to Write + Full Examples

Quick Answer:

A literature review in economics is a structured analysis of existing research on a specific topic. It summarizes, compares, and critiques academic sources.

Strong reviews follow a clear structure: introduction, thematic analysis, and synthesis.

They highlight research gaps and connect studies logically.

Use economic theories, models, and empirical evidence to support arguments.

A good sample includes critical evaluation, not just summaries.

If you're stuck, you can [get expert help with your literature review](#).

SERP Analysis: What Top Results Include

Common Headings

- What is a literature review in economics
- Structure and format
- Sample literature review
- How to write step-by-step
- Common mistakes

Typical Questions Covered

- How long should a literature review be?
- What sources should I use?
- How do I structure it?
- How to analyze vs summarize?

Content Format

Most pages follow a guide-style format with partial examples. However, many lack deep analysis, real critique, and practical writing insights.

What Is Missing

- Detailed economic examples
- Clear explanation of synthesis vs summary
- Real mistakes students make
- Decision-making guidance

SEO Structure & Keyword Clustering

Primary Keyword

literature review economics sample

Secondary Keywords

- economic literature review example
- how to write literature review economics
- economics research review sample
- literature review structure economics

What Is a Literature Review in Economics?

A literature review in economics is more than a summary of articles. It is a critical analysis of academic work related to a specific economic question. Instead of listing studies, you must connect them, compare methodologies, and evaluate findings.

For example, if your topic is “minimum wage effects,” you would not just describe studies. You would compare their models, data sources, and conclusions.

This is where most students fail: they summarize instead of synthesizing.

REAL VALUE BLOCK: How It Actually Works

Key Concepts Explained

A literature review works by organizing research into themes rather than sources. You group studies by theory, method, or findings.

How the System Works

- Define a research question
- Collect relevant studies
- Group them logically
- Analyze differences
- Identify gaps

Decision Factors

- Relevance of sources
- Quality of journals
- Recency of data
- Methodological strength

Common Mistakes

- Listing studies without analysis
- Ignoring conflicting evidence
- Weak structure
- No clear argument

What Actually Matters

The most important element is synthesis. You must show how studies relate to each other. This is what separates a strong review from an average one.

Literature Review Economics Sample

Topic: The Impact of Minimum Wage on Employment

The relationship between minimum wage policies and employment levels has been extensively studied in economic literature. Early neoclassical models suggest that increasing minimum wage leads to unemployment due to higher labor costs. However, empirical research presents mixed results.

Card and Krueger (1994) challenged traditional theory by showing that minimum wage increases in New Jersey did not reduce employment in fast-food restaurants. Their natural experiment approach provided strong empirical evidence against classical assumptions.

In contrast, Neumark and Wascher (2007) found negative employment effects, particularly among low-skilled workers. Their analysis relied on panel data and regression models, emphasizing the importance of methodology in determining results.

Recent studies incorporate monopsony models, suggesting that labor markets are not perfectly competitive. Under these conditions, minimum wage increases can actually improve employment levels.

This divergence in findings highlights a critical gap: the need for context-specific analysis. Labor market structure, regional differences, and industry characteristics significantly influence outcomes.

Step-by-Step: How to Write Your Own

1. Define Your Topic

Choose a clear economic question. Avoid broad topics like "inflation." Instead, focus on "inflation targeting in developing countries."

2. Gather Sources

Use academic journals, working papers, and official reports. Prioritize peer-reviewed sources.

3. Organize by Themes

Group studies logically instead of listing them chronologically.

4. Analyze Critically

Discuss strengths, weaknesses, and contradictions.

5. Write Clearly

Use simple language and avoid unnecessary jargon.

What Others Don't Tell You

- You don't need dozens of sources — quality matters more than quantity
- Structure matters more than content volume
- Most professors look for analysis, not length
- Clarity beats complexity every time

Common Mistakes & Anti-Patterns

- Turning the review into an annotated bibliography
- Ignoring opposing viewpoints
- Overusing quotes
- Weak introduction and conclusion

Buyer Guide: Getting Help with Literature Reviews

Writing a high-quality literature review in economics is time-consuming and intellectually demanding. Many students underestimate the complexity involved, especially when it comes to synthesis, critical analysis, and academic tone. If you're considering getting help, it's important to understand how to make the right decision.

When You Should Consider Help

You might need assistance if:

- You don't understand how to structure your review
- You struggle with academic writing
- You have tight deadlines
- You need high-quality analysis

What to Look For

- Writers with economics background

- Clear revision policies
- Original, plagiarism-free work
- Transparent pricing

Red Flags

- Extremely cheap services
- No samples or guarantees
- Poor communication

How to Use Help Effectively

Even if you use a service, treat it as a learning tool. Analyze the structure, arguments, and writing style.

If you want professional support, you can [request a custom literature review here](#) and get guidance tailored to your topic.

Practical Tips for Better Writing

- Always connect studies — never isolate them
- Use transition phrases
- Focus on argument, not description
- Edit aggressively

FAQ

1. How long should a literature review in economics be?

The length depends on the academic level and assignment requirements. For undergraduate work, a literature review typically ranges between 1500–3000 words. For graduate-level research or theses, it can extend to 5000 words or more. However, length is not the key factor — depth and quality of analysis matter far more. A concise, well-structured review with strong synthesis is always better than a long but descriptive one. Focus on covering key studies, comparing findings, and identifying gaps rather than trying to include everything.

2. What sources should I use?

You should prioritize peer-reviewed journal articles, working papers from reputable institutions, and official economic reports. Avoid relying heavily on blogs or non-academic websites. Databases like JSTOR, Google Scholar, and SSRN are good starting points. The key is credibility and relevance. Using outdated or low-quality sources weakens your review. Also, make sure your sources directly relate to your research question — relevance is more important than quantity.

3. How do I avoid just summarizing?

This is one of the biggest challenges students face. To avoid summarizing, focus on comparing and contrasting studies. Instead of writing “Study A found X,” explain how it differs from Study B and why. Discuss methodologies, assumptions,

and limitations. Ask yourself: what does this study add to the discussion? How does it relate to others? This approach turns your writing into analysis rather than description.

4. Do I need to include theories?

Yes, economic theories are essential in a literature review. They provide the framework for understanding research findings. For example, labor market studies often rely on supply-demand models or monopsony theory. Including theory helps you explain why results differ across studies. It also demonstrates deeper understanding, which is critical for higher grades. However, don't overcomplicate — explain theories clearly and link them to your topic.

5. Can I use help for my literature review?

Yes, many students use professional help, especially when dealing with complex topics or tight deadlines. The key is to use it responsibly. Treat the result as a reference or learning tool rather than submitting it blindly. Analyze how arguments are built, how sources are connected, and how structure is organized. If you need assistance, you can [get a customized literature review](#) to better understand the process and improve your own work.

6. What is the biggest mistake in literature reviews?

The biggest mistake is treating the literature review as a summary rather than an analysis. Many students list studies without connecting them. This results in weak arguments and poor structure. Another major issue is lack of focus — including irrelevant studies just to increase length. Always stay aligned with your research question and prioritize depth over breadth.