

## Writing a Short Literature Review

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A student began a short literature review on the stigma of the mentally ill and perceptions of dangerousness. Working through PsychArticles she found three likely articles. When she read each, she wrote a paragraph description of each:

Alexander, L.A., & Link, B.G. (2003). The impact of contact on stigmatizing attitudes towards people with mental illness. *Journal of Mental Health*, 12, 271-289.

Alexander and Link (2003) examined the stigma of mental illness, perceptions of dangerousness and social distance in a telephone survey. They found that, as a participant's own life contact with mentally ill individuals increased, participants were both less likely to perceive a target mentally ill individual in a vignette as physically dangerous and less likely to desire social distance from the target. This relationship remained after controlling for demographic and confounds variables, such as gender, ethnicity, education, income and political conservatism. They also found that any type of contact with a friend, a spouse, a family member, a work contact, or a contact in a public place with mentally ill individuals reduced perceptions of dangerousness of the target in the vignette.

Corrigan, P. W., Rowan, D., Green, A., Lundin, R., River, P., Uphoff-Wasowski, K., White, K., & Kubiak, M.A. (2002). Challenging two mental illness stigmas: Personality responsibility and dangerousness. *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, 28, 293-309.

Corrigan, Rowan, Green, Lundin, River, Uphoff-Wasowski, White and Kubiak (2002) conducted two studies to investigate the strength of the theoretical relationship between stigma and personality responsibility, and stigma and dangerousness. Corrigan et al. posited two models to account for stigmatizing reactions. In the first model, labeled personal responsibility, personality responsibility influences both the level of pity and anger displayed toward mental patients. Additionally, the variables of pity and anger influence helping behavior. In the second model, labeled dangerousness, perceived dangerousness influences fear of mental patients, which in turn influences the avoidance of the mentally ill. In their first study, Corrigan et al. (2002), administered a questionnaire to 216 community college students. This questionnaire contained items which would allow the examination of the two models. The results of a path analysis indicated that while both models fit the data, the results for the

dangerousness model seemed far more consistent with the data. Their second study was an attempt to manipulate variables in the models. Participants met with either an educational group or a mental patient. During the meetings, either myths about the personality responsibility or the dangerousness of mental patients were discussed and debunked. While education yielded some positive results, contact with mental patients produced stronger results.

Martin, J. K., Pescosolido, B. A., & Tuch, S. A. (2000). Of fear and loathing: The role of 'disturbing behavior' labels, and causal attributions in shaping public attitudes toward people with mental illness. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 41, 208-223.

Martin, Pescosolido & Tuch (2000) examined the effects of descriptions of the targets' behavior, causal attributions about the source of the behavior, the target's perceived dangerousness, labeling and participants' socio demographic characteristics. Twenty percent of the participants labeled a target described with depressed symptoms as having a mental illness (as compared with 54% for those described with schizophrenic symptoms or 1% with normal troubles); 37% would be unwilling to interact with the depressed person (48% for the schizophrenic and 21% for normal troubles); and 33% felt that the depressed person would do violence to others (61% for the schizophrenic and 17% for the normal troubles).

Next she decided upon the order of the paragraphs in the paper:

### **THIS IS WHAT YOUR REVIEW PARAGRAPH SHOULD LOOK LIKE**

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