Research and Statistics Final Project: Literature Review

For your final project, you are required to write a minimum of 20 pages (not including cover page and references section) to complete a review of the existing research literature on an approved topic. You will be submitting your ideas for research topics on week 2, and will then be doing literature searches and working on writing your Final Project for most of the semester. This literature review paper will then serve as the foundation for your final thesis. Here is a brief description of the four required sections for your paper:

- **Introduction**: (APA Manual section 2.05) Topic/Problem Statement (tell us why), how you’re organizing or going about the literature search, any Limitations or Delimitations, etc… You’ll also include what aspects of your topic you will be exploring or examining in your review of the literature. The introduction is also where you give the history or background of your topic, important definitions, etc. Make sure you segue smoothly into the Review of the Literature Section. This section must be a minimum of three pages in length.

- **Review of the Literature**: This is a part of all legitimate research studies BEFORE they even start… how else would you know what other researchers have already done? When the results are published, some journal articles that summarize the research will also simply summarize the lit review to keep the article at a size that is publishable. But YOU will thoroughly review your articles. You are required to have a minimum of 10 primary source, peer-reviewed articles reviewed in this section, which must be a minimum of 15 pages in length.

- **Conclusions**: In an actual research study, this section would present what you did, with whom, and how you did it. It would present the statistical results in quantitative data, or as descriptions and relationships, finding connections and essences if it was a qualitative study. But YOU will be writing a review of other people’s published research (a literature review), and so you will be summarizing what you found in the literature you explored and reviewed in the previous section. Then you will discuss your conclusions, i.e. how you interpret the results in terms of your subject, and what you recommend (based on the research you have found thus far) for further study. This section must be a minimum of two pages in length.

- **References**: Every article, book, or website that you mention in your paper MUST be cited in the text… and every citation must correspond to an item in your References section. Remember, every single Reference you include must have actually been used… that is, cited within the text of your paper. You must have a minimum of 10 primary source, peer-reviewed articles in your references section.

Keep in mind, this paper must follow APA6 formatting guidelines. For all grading criteria, refer to the Final Project Assessment Rubric.