This assignment requires that you write a review of the literature that informs a reader what others have already learned about your research question. This means that you will have to locate and read at least 3 published academic journal articles that are quantitative in nature. Your goal is to convey what other researchers have written about your topic. Approaching this assignment requires that you understand what the purpose of the literature review is, how to read selected articles, and how to write, organize, and format your review of the literature. I have provided you with much of this information in this assignment sheet.

To complete this assignment, you must do the following:

1. This review should be 3-4 pages long, double-spaced, 12-inch font, 1-inch margins, and include page numbers.
2. AVOID writing in the first person.
3. Your assignment will contain 5 sections: TITLE PAGE, INTRODUCTION, LITERATURE REVIEW, RATIONALE FOR YOUR STUDY, and WORKS CITED.
   a. The title page should contain an informative title, your name, the course name, and date.
   b. The introduction section identifies the general topic and its importance. This can be as short as a couple of paragraphs, or a bit more if necessary. Try to write this description of your research problem as clearly and effectively as possible—it will let the reader know what you are researching, and will help remind you of your research focus.
   c. The literature review section provides the overview of previous research and explains what has and what has not already been learned. Much of the focus of the literature review is on previous research related to the dependent variable. This includes use of sociological theories to explain the dependent variable. It may also be appropriate to focus on research related to the independent variables. This section MUST be succinct and well-organized and define terms and concepts used in the literature. It should also correctly and briefly articulate the argument of an author you cite and provide an analysis of author’s claims.
   d. The study rationale is where you explain the thinking that leads to your research questions and hypotheses (you’ll draw upon the past literature to do this—your hypotheses may be extending a previous study, filling a gap you’ve identified, etc). One way to approach this section is to outline how your research question has changed after your examination of the literature.
   e. Works cited or reference page with ASA citation formatting (reference page does not count toward length of your essay). Be careful to keep your list focused on topics which are clearly and directly relevant to your topic.
4. Use proper in-text citation format! The review should follow generally established stylistic guidelines. This conveys to readers that the author is familiar with scholarly publication style, and that can add legitimacy to the author’s work. Plus, when the typical style is used, it is easier for readers to immediately follow the paper’s organization.