# Literature Review Organization

**First paragraph:** This paragraph makes broad statements about the main topic of your paper. The sentences in this paragraph should discuss the importance of the topic and they often have three to six citations each. After reading the first paragraph, the reader should understand why studying the topic is important to the field.

**Sections of paragraphs:** The following sections of paragraphs should progressively move away from broad statements and discuss more specific components of the topic. The paragraphs and the sections of paragraphs should be ordered from broad to specific as much as possible. There is no set rule for how many paragraphs should be in a section, but a range of three to eight paragraphs is a good general guideline. As the paper progresses, the reader should understand the topic in general and begin to see the need for your specific area of study.

**Concluding section of paragraphs:** In this section, the research questions and hypotheses should be clearly written. The reader should be able to find the answers to each research question and the results of testing each hypothesis in the Results and Discussion sections.