English 102: Inquiry into the South

Please login to your computers and what your drafted thesis and body paragraph handy.
Your body paragraphs …

✧ What was your experience drafting your first body paragraphs like?

✧ Is the focus of your topic sentence the current state of research and the trend your body paragraph covers?

✧ Does your body paragraph end by tying up why, collectively, the articles in the field think this trend is important to your topic?

✧ How was synthesis?

✧ Do you have a good balance of synthesis versus summary?
Other comments/insights you’d like to share about your drafting experience?
Use Evidence

 Writers refer to several other sources when making their point. A literature review in this sense is just like any other academic research paper. Your interpretation of the available sources must be backed up with evidence to show that what you are saying is valid.

http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/
Be Selective

Select only the most important points in each source to highlight in the review. The type of information you choose to mention should relate directly to the review’s focus, whether it is thematic, methodological, or chronological.

http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/
Many writers do not use any direct quotes. That is because the survey nature of the literature review does not allow for in-depth discussion or detailed quotes from the text. Some short quotes here and there are okay, though, if you want to emphasize a point, or if what the author said just cannot be rewritten in your own words. Writers do quote certain terms that were coined by the author, not common knowledge, or taken directly from the study. But if you find yourself wanting to put in more quotes, check with your instructor.

http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/
Keep your Voice

While the literature review presents others’ ideas, your voice (the writer’s) should remain front and center. Writers weave references to other sources into their own text, but they still maintain their own voice by starting and ending the paragraph with their own ideas and their own words. The sources support what writers are saying.

http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/
Summary and Synthesis

- Remember to summarize and synthesize your sources within each paragraph as well as throughout the review. The authors here recapitulate important features of X study, but then synthesize it by rephrasing the study’s significance and relating it to other texts.

- A literature review can be just a simple summary of the sources, but it usually has an organizational pattern and combines both summary and synthesis. A summary is a recap of the important information of the source, but a synthesis is a re-organization, or a reshuffling, of that information. It might give a new interpretation of old material or combine new with old interpretations. Or it might trace the intellectual progression of the field, including major debates. And depending on the situation, the literature review may evaluate the sources and advise the reader on the most pertinent or relevant.

http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/
Your body paragraph should:

- Group research studies and other types of literature (reviews, theoretical articles, case studies, etc.) according to common denominators such as qualitative versus quantitative approaches, conclusions of authors, specific purpose or objective, chronology, etc.

- Summarize individual studies or articles with as much or as little detail as each merits according to its comparative importance in the literature, remembering that space (length) denotes significance.

- Provide the reader with strong "umbrella" sentences at beginnings of paragraphs, "signposts" throughout, and brief "so what" summary sentences at intermediate points in the review to aid in understanding comparisons and analyses.

  http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/ReviewofLiterature.html
Group Work:

With a partner, take 10 minutes and review each other’s work in the following ways:

✧ Check the topic sentence to make sure that the focus is appropriate and that it is putting forth a clear claim about a trend in the current state of research.

✧ Highlight sentences that summarize and sentences that synthesize in different colors so that you can visually see the summary-to-synthesis ratio.

✧ Check to make sure that the paragraph ends with a take-away sentence wherein the writer sums up what has been presented, and ties it back to the thesis. That is, the paragraph should end by asserting why what it just presented contributes to what we know about the current state of research on the topic.
The Upshot: Concluding your SOS

You want to end your SOS with a bang by making claims about what you’ve presented.

- Make claims about what the consensuses and discontinuities between the research means.
- Point out gaps in the research you think have not been covered or have been covered too lightly.
- Use the “discrepancies” space in your matrix to remind you of issues you had with the research.
A conclusion for an SOS should:

- Summarize major contributions of significant studies and articles to the body of knowledge under review, maintaining the focus established in the introduction.
- Evaluate the current "state of the art" for the body of knowledge reviewed, pointing out major methodological flaws or gaps in research, inconsistencies in theory and findings, and areas or issues pertinent to future study.
- Conclude by providing some insight into the relationship between the central topic of the literature review and a larger area of study such as a discipline, a scientific endeavor, or a profession.

http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/ReviewofLiterature.html
Homework

Reading: Read a second SOS student sample.

Homework: Draft another body paragraph and some key sentences for your conclusion.

* You should bring in a hard copy of your theses and topic sentences to give me on Wednesday so I can make sure that you are on the right track.