

State of Research

One important part of your term paper is the state of research.

In the state of research, you have to analyze the literature **for contents, methods and results.**

“State of Research” does not mean that you write sentences such as “This book was helpful to me,” “I (do not) like this author,” or “That article is quite good.”

Do not give accounts about your own feelings, emotions, or problems regarding literature or authors. What you should search to reach is **objectivity**. That means, you as a subject do not count.

Check the following points:

1. Which are the most important titles of literature concerning your topic?
2. Include primary sources as well as secondary literature.
3. Check methods. Some suggestions:
 - 1.1. What were the author’s concerns?
 - 1.2. Search for the author’s statements concerning her/his goals
 - 1.3. Did she/he analyze style, historical background, iconography, authenticity, chronology, archive materials, type of art work/building, the artist’s/architect’s theoretical approach, references to other art works/buildings, new attributions, etc.
 - 1.4. Who was the first to find out about an important fact?
4. Check research results (to be especially found in the conclusion).
5. In general: What is known up to date about an art work/building/subject matter? What are the open questions? You, then, build your own ideas on the state of research.