

Lit Review

Please provide a definition of ethnoculture – it cannot be assumed that all readers will understand that phrase.

The following sentence is awkwardly constructed: "There is less attention to how ethnoculture influences help-seeking behaviors regarding viable mental health support for ethnically-gendered women, which may include churches, clergy members, family members, and other support networks (Ayalon & Young, 2005; Molock et al., 2008)." The list of possible support providers at the end of the sentence does not flow well. The sentence mentions "help-seeking behaviors" not "providers" so there is a mismatch between the first and second half of the sentence.

The literature review needs better scaffolding for the reader. A paragraph-by-paragraph analysis of the current structure =

- not enough research on how ethnoculture impacts AA women's help-seeking
- depression stats in the US
- conflicting findings regarding depression rates for AA and EA women
- link between depression and young adulthood
- depression as a risk factor for academic performance
- help-seeking behaviors of AA individuals (and possibility that trends are due to a lack of culturally appropriate services)
- assertion that all of this points to the fact that "Further investigation into the experiences of African American women in the context of depression and depression care is warranted"
- The problem with the bulleted list above is not that this information isn't relevant for your study but that there is no effort to link these ideas together and make it clear how/why they justify your study's focus. For instance, how does the link between depression and young adulthood lead to your focus on AA women? The same can be asked about the information you provided on depression and academic performance. The lit review should be treated like a funnel that starts broadly and funnels the reader toward your research question. It is possible to do that with the information you have here, but it's not constructed that way at the moment. As a result, your lit review reads like a hodge-podge of information on depression that is not clearly linked to your focus on AA women. I strongly suggest a major reworking of the organization of your lit review.
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- When you define diunital, you use the following example: "This means that seemingly opposite ways of being (for example, being Black and female) can exist harmoniously and in balance. (Asante, 1990; Borum, 2006; Collins, 1996; Walker, 1983)." I don't understand this example – why are being Black and female "seemingly opposite ways of being"? What is seemingly opposite about them? You have several cites after this assertion, so it seems that others have made this claim as well—draw out this discussion a bit more so it is clear to your reader what this means.
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- Please do a thorough edit of the entire paper. For instance, there are periods in places where they don't belong (see the sentence above that I quoted as one example—there should not be a period after the word "balance"), missing commas, missing words, extra spaces, etc.
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- Methods
- In the methods section you describe using the word "someone" in the second question asked of the focus group; however, the second question listed in the manuscript uses the word "you." You likely meant to write that the third question uses "someone" but that leads me to ask why the rationale you provided for using "someone" in that question doesn't apply to the other questions, especially the one that is actually listed second in the paper.
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- How many participants were in each focus group? What the range and average?
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- Please offer a few examples of your open codes, grouped categories, and clusters.
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- You note that each theme is supported by "two to three" statements in the data. What is the average number of statements that support a theme? Two to three is quite low and generally wouldn't be considered sufficient to establish a theme.
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- Discussion
- The implications section is underdeveloped. What specific actions (beyond increased awareness) do you recommend be taken in light of this research?