

# So you're writing a Literature Review...

Try these steps to get started





## Choose your research topic/question.

- What do you want to write about?
- What question are you interested in asnwering?





#### Analyze & interpret

- What does what you learned mean to you?
- How does this relate to your research?
  - Why is this important?

#### Search for articles

- Look at your research question or topic: what keywords will you search?
- Are there other words that mean similar things or related terms you could search for?



Look at **all** the research you've done so far:

- What did you learn?
- What topics are coming up in multiple articles?
- What questions aren't being asked in the existing research?



Click the circles for more information about each step in the research process!

#### IMPORTANT POINT!

This process is circular!
You can go through
these steps multiple
times to refine your
topic or find



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## What goes into a Literature Review?

SYNTHESIS: the combination of parts or elements so as to form a whole.



HINT: This is what you are doing when you write a literature review

## Introduction (m)



#### Things to Work Towards:

- A clear and specific
- Explaining why the topic and question matters to you and should matter to others.
- Setting the reader up by providing an overview of what will be covered.

#### Things to Avoid:

- Introducing the topic but not explaining why it matters or giving the reader an overview of what will be covered.
- Not providing a clear thesis so the reader knows what you will be talking about

### Body



#### Things to Work Towards:

- Guide the reader to show connections, comparisons, and other relationships among the articles you're using
- Pick a way to organize your information (by theme, topic, time, etc..) and stick to it
- Synthesize information-talk about how articles are similar or different from each other

#### Things to Avoid:

- Just summarizing each of the articles, one after another, without much synthesis or focus on themes or what has been discovered.
- Dumping information from all the articles but does not explain to the reader the connections.

## Conclusion

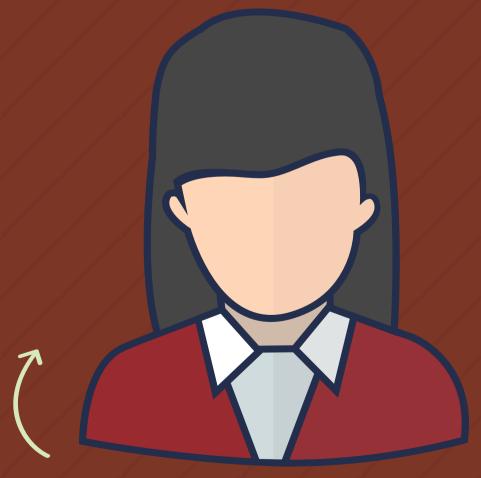


#### Things to Work Towards:

- Explaining what readers should learn from this review of the literature
- What questions does this leave for future research?

#### Things to Avoid:

 An abrupt ending with no conclusion



More questions? Click here for additional resources or to talk to a Librarian!





