Literature Review

Developing Academic Writing
Why do I have to write a literature review?

• Good question!

• Show that you know your field.

• Show how your research fits in your field.

• Establish your theory & methods (“conceptual framework”).
  • If you use an established theory, show that you understand it.
  • If you develop new theory, show how it relates to existing ones.
How do I write a literature review?

• Before you start:
  • Look at other scholars’ work.
  • Ask for guidance.
  • Decide if you need a separate “literature review” chapter.
How do I write a literature review?

• Before you start:
  • Narrow your focus. What is your thesis statement?
  • Understand the literature.
    • What has been published about your topic?
    • How much of that literature do you need to know?
  • Your sensei can help. So can fellow students & librarians.
How do I write a literature review?

• Starting out: Organize the literature
  • Chronological order: Are there trends over time?
  • Thematic groupings: Groups of scholars with different focus?
  • Group by theory: Different “schools” or theories?
  • Group by method: Scholars using specific methods?
How do I write a literature review?

• Summarize!
  • Don’t quote too much. *(How much is too much?)*
  • Rephrase just the most important points.
  • Remember to focus on your understanding, and how the literature relates to your research.
  • Your “voice” is important and valuable.
How do I write a literature review?

• Synthesize!
  • Don’t summarize each article in your review separately.
  • Group similar ideas together.
  • Explain what is similar within the group.
  • Note *important* differences.
How do I write a literature review?

• Make an argument.
  • “Literature reviews have thesis statements as well!” –UNC
  • What is your conclusion about what the literature means?
  • Argue logically for your conclusion.
  • Show your evidence. Refer to specific information in the literature.
How do I write a literature review?

Both the cost method and the equity method of accounting have broad support in some sectors; neither is clearly preferred.

- What is your conclusion about what the literature means?
- Argue logically for your conclusion.
- Show your evidence. Refer to specific information in the literature.

**Cost accounting**
- Use in Britain, 1914-1925
  - Hilton 1994
  - Drury 2013

**Equity accounting**
- Use in Britain, 1907-1922
  - Ohlson 1995
  - Easton 2004
How do I understand the literature?

• I wish I could tell you.

• Search the library and skim what you find.
  • Too much? Refine your search. Focus on most interesting
  • Too little? Maybe focusing too narrowly; Check with your sensei

• Evaluate critically.
  • (This will help when you write the review.)
How do I understand the literature?

• As you understand more, re-evaluate.

• Ask how each source relates to the other sources.

• Ask how each source relates to your research interest.

• When you finish, you should understand how your research relates to other work in your field.
What does a literature review look like?

• Separate chapter

Chapter II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Studies and literature relevant to the present study are herein presented in this section. These studies and literature give light in the preparation of this investigation.

Mathematics Performance

In many developing countries, the secondary level of formal education is the target of criticism – low performance in the academics, poor human values, enormous class size, poor quality of teachers, dilapidated classrooms, etc... Mathematics education is not an exception to this interminable cliché that dishes out challenges and irritants to educators in the area of discipline.

Student performance in Mathematics was higher than that in science at Grade 4, while at Second Year High School, performance in the two subject areas was almost the same. The scores (Grade 4: Mathematics = 358, science = 332, Second Year High School: Mathematics = 378, science = 377) are very low, considering benchmarks in earlier TIMSS. http://depedteacher.blogspot.com/2007/12/filipino-performance-in-math-and-science.htm/ October 13, 2011

All of the research reviews support the hypothesis that student performance depends on different socio-economic, psychological,
What does a literature review look like?

• Part of the introduction
What does a literature review look like?

• Throughout the thesis*
  • Instead of writing a separate literature review chapter or section, you might review relevant literature in each thesis chapter.

*But beware: Your sensei may want a literature review section. Be sure to do what your sensei, other colleagues demand.
How is your annotated bibliography?

Today is your chance to ask for help.