Literature Review Preparation Handout

* **Due** Oct 23 by 11:59pm

* **Points** 5

* **Submitting** a text entry box or a file upload

PREPARING TO WRITE YOUR LITERATURE REVIEW

Based on your reading about your topic, what are the 3-5 most important things that someone interested in your topic needs to know?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Are there any terms that are used in specific ways that you need to define for people unfamiliar with this research (for example, intrinsic vs extrinsic motivation)? If so, write them here:

Now pull out your annotated bibliography. Under each of the 3-5 points (above), list the authors/researchers whose ideas and research you would want to cite for that point. The same research can be cited under multiple points.

What is missing from the research that you read? What hasn’t been done? What needs to be studied more closely? There can be multiple things that are missing, but one of them will become **your** “niche.”

So now you have the skeleton of your literature review! You can make each point a heading. Under each heading, try beginning with a main claim, in your own words, about that idea or point. And then start pulling in the ideas and researchers of other people to help flesh out the idea. Look at the example lit reviews on webcourses to help you.

“A literature review is a piece of **discursive prose**, not a list describing or summarizing one piece of literature after another. It's usually a bad sign to see every paragraph beginning with the name of a researcher. Instead, organize the literature review into sections that present themes or identify trends, including relevant theory. You are not trying to list all the material published, but to synthesize and evaluate it according to the guiding concept of your thesis or research question” (Taylor).

http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/literature-review

 Also see: <http://guides.ucf.edu/content.php?pid=70740&sid=633760>

For homework, read a sample literature review in your field. I have posted several here  in the Literature Review module  and you are also welcome to find one on your own. Complete a journal entry about the literature review that you read for homework. You may also want to go ahead and start working on your own literature review.