



# EDUC 890 Class 4

Chapter 4—Literature Reviews

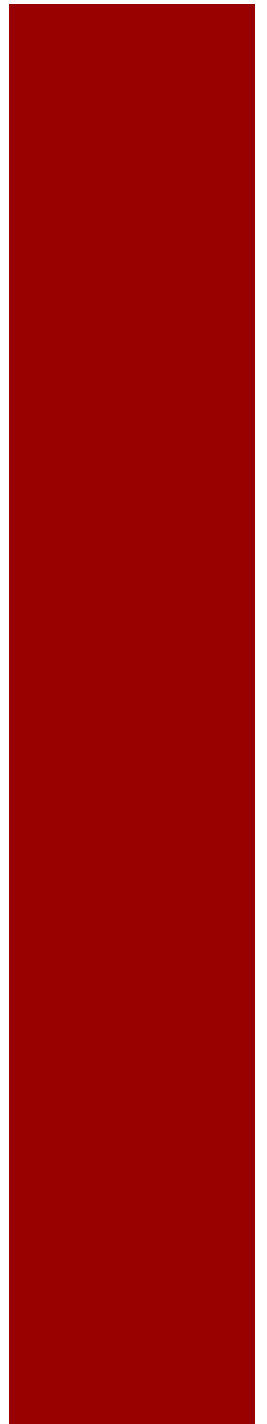
How to identify the lit review

How researchers use literature

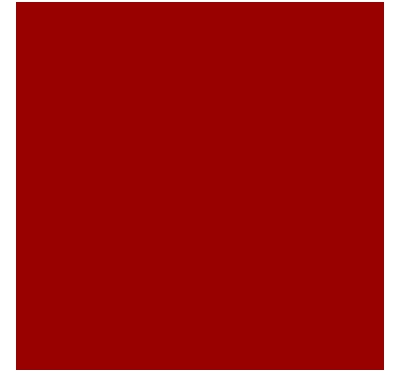
Steps in reviewing literature

Writing a literature review

Evaluating a literature review



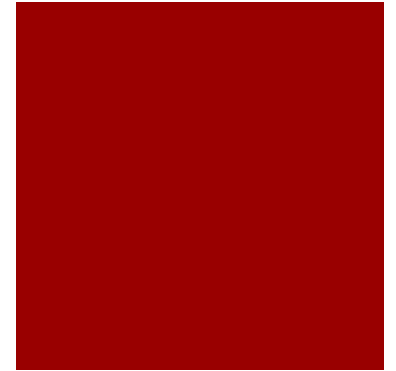
# How to identify the lit review



*Possible headings...*

- “Literature Review”
- “Background (for the Study)”
- “Context”
- “Conceptual Framework”
- Content topic heading e.g. “Adolescent Depression”

# How/why researchers use literature



- To justify the research problem
- To document what is known/not known
- To identify theoretical or conceptual framework\*
- To inform methods and procedures\*
- To interpret results\*



# To identify a **theoretical** or conceptual framework\*

*How/why  
researchers  
use  
literature*

- A **theory** explains how variables relate to each other
  - E.g. Self-determination theory explains that competence, autonomy, and relatedness influence motivation
- Theories address...
  - how students learn
  - What motivates people
  - How new ideas are adopted
  - How leadership styles promote certain behaviours, etc.



# To identify a theoretical or **conceptual** framework\*

*How/why  
researchers  
use  
literature*

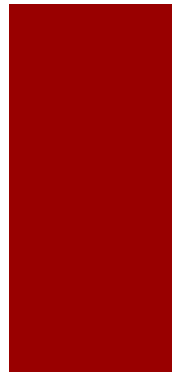
- A **conceptual framework** informs assumptions and beliefs about the topic
- Conceptual frameworks represents...
  - A philosophical perspective (e.g. constructivism)
  - An advocacy or social justice stance (e.g. certain voices are marginalized)
  - A particular way of viewing knowledge (e.g. teacher knowledge manifests in actions)

## Theory

- explains how variables relate to each other
- A way of understanding the world that can be *tested*
- Authors explain/describe the theory so readers can understand why particular variables are addressed in the research design
- Examples p. 121

## Conceptual framework

- Informs assumptions and beliefs about the topic
- A perspective important in shaping the study
- Researchers use a conceptual framework to build on what others have figured out
- Authors explain/describe the conceptual framework so readers can understand where the authors/researchers are coming from
- Examples p. 122





# Group work 1

- In pairs, find a research article of interest and identify:
  - Theoretical or Conceptual Framework
- *Email me the sentence (OK to paraphrase) that gives you the best indication of the Framework*





# Group work 1 Results

## Theoretical/Conceptual Frameworks

- The expert performance framework distinguishes between deliberate practice and less effective practice activities. The current longitudinal study is the first to use this framework.....
- A primary conceptual lens was symbolic interactionism, which rests on the notion that roles and identities are constructed and evolve through social interaction
- "One of the assumptions underlying the National Science Education Standards is that "student understanding is actively constructed through individual and social processes"
- "The conceptual framework for this study was digital inclusion can ensure individuals have access to digital technologies to narrow the educational gap caused by socioeconomic, language, age, ability or other factors between individual for whom technology is readily available and those for whom it is not (Real, Bertot, & Jaeger, 2014).



# Group work 1 Results

## Theoretical/Conceptual Frameworks

- A longitudinal study tested the self-determination theory (SDT) process model of health behavior change for glycemic control within a randomized trial of patient activation versus passive education
- OPERATIONAL CITIZENSHIP THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK “investigates the ability of citizens to exercise their rights as opposed to simply having them”
- Finally, given that the term “Salish” is a direct reference to the Indigenous peoples who have inhabited these lands and travelled these waters since time immemorial, it is critical to consider the extent to which this act of place naming can be seen as another step toward “decolonizing the map” (Huggan 1989) or whether it reinforces neocolonial relations of socio-spatial dispossession by further normalizing the authority of the state in the “colonial present” (Gregory 2004).
- “I accept Nias’ (1996) statement that ‘emotions are rooted in cognition’ and that ‘feelings are not separate from perception [or] affectivity from judgement ... Nor are they to be separated from the social and cultural forces which help to form them and which are in turn shaped by them’ (p. 294).”





# To inform methods and procedures\*

*How/why  
researchers  
use  
literature*

- Researchers reference data collection and analysis methods used in other studies to justify their own
  - E.g. referencing the use of a particular survey tool that was used in a previous study
- It demonstrates the researchers are building on others' ideas



# To interpret results\*

*How/why  
researchers  
use  
literature*

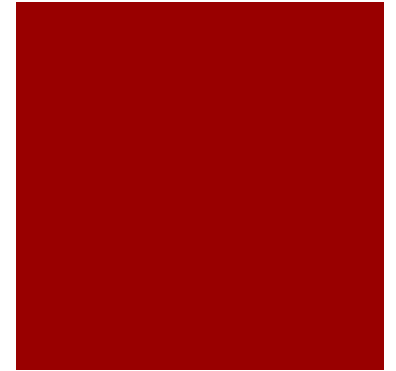
- Comparing new results with past studies in the conclusion section
- Situating the findings within existing literature

# Group work 2

- In pairs, do the exercise on the bottom of p. 123, identifying how/why the authors are using the literature.
- Remember, there are five possibilities:
  - To justify the research problem
  - To document what is known/not known
  - To identify theoretical or conceptual framework\*
  - To inform methods and procedures\*
  - To interpret results\*



# Steps in reviewing literature



- Identify key terms
- Use search strategies to locate literature\*
- Select relevant research reports of good quality\*
- Take notes on key aspects of each selected report\*



# Use search strategies to locate literature\*

- *Ask for help from an academic librarian*
- *Sign on with Queen's library before using google so that you can access the full text of the articles you find*
- *Limit search to recent literature*
- *Begin with journal articles*
- *....any suggestions???*



# Select **relevant** research reports of good quality\*

- *Relevance has several dimensions...*
  - *Does it focus on the same topic?*
  - *Does it examine the same individuals or sites?*
  - *Does it examine the same research problem?*
- *If yes to any of these...review it.*
- *You want many different perspectives and approaches to the topic!*





# Select relevant research reports **of good quality\***

- *Original rather than secondary sources*
- *Peer reviewed (e.g. journals rather than dissertations, conference papers, books)*
- *Reputable rather than unknown sources (academic sources, government or professional organization sources, well-known publishers, journals that are respected in your field\*)*
- *See table p. 133*

*\*talk to those who know your field!*



# Take notes on key aspects of each selected report

- *Reference*
- *Research problem*
- *Purpose, questions, hypotheses*
- *Data collection*
- *Results*
- *Comments (implications for practice, limitations to the research or issues with the design, etc.)*
- *See examples p. 134-5...this is what you must do for assignment 3!*

# Assignment

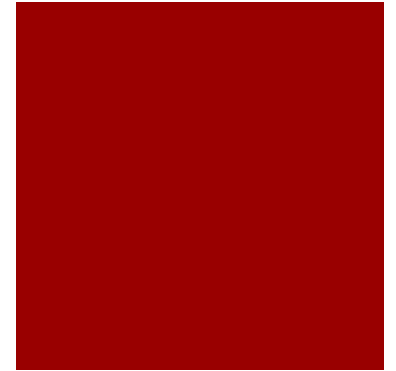
## 3

- APA reference
- Research problem
- Purpose, research questions, hypotheses
- Participants, data collection and analysis
- Major results/findings
- Your comments about the study
- Max. four pages
- exemplars pp. 134-5

- Summary of a research article
- **Due Oct. 18 (two weeks)**
- ***Don't plagiarize!!!!***
- ***Don't use Ass. 2 article!!!!***

*Email me a pdf of the article*

# Writing a literature review



- Organize literature into themes (*see maps p. 137-8*)
- Summarize major themes
  - Study by study (more detail) (*see p. 140*)
  - Thematic review (lumping studies together) (*see p. 140*)
- Document sources with citations to the literature
  - Paraphrase and quote; don't plagiarize
  - Follow APA guidelines
- Provide conclusions about the review
  - Highlight what you learned about major themes
  - I.D. strengths and weaknesses about what is known and not known



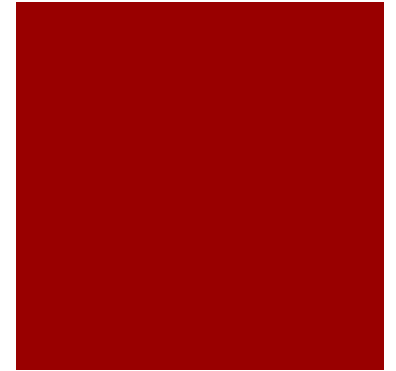
# Group work 3/homework

In pairs...

- Write 2 sentences about the adolescent-homelessness study on p. 148 using an APA in-text reference (see examples p. 141)
  - 1) direct quote
  - 2) no quote
- Identify the major topics and subtopics addressed in the literature review, (list or sketch a map, as on p. 137 and 138)
- Personal homework...do this on your own for a study of interest to you sometime!!!



# Evaluating a literature review



- Includes relevant literature
- Examines recent, high quality sources
- Literature is appropriately documented
- Literature is thoughtfully synthesized
- Literature is critically examined

*See p. 143*