

Conduct a Literature Review

Online course learning objectives

This course guides learners through the entire process of preparing a literature review, selecting and analyzing existing literature and structuring and writing a quality literature review. Most importantly, the course develops skills in using evidence to create and present an engaging and critical argument.

This course will help learners to:

- Evaluate the purpose of a literature review
- Develop and clarify their thinking, embed their ideas, and articulate their thoughts clearly
- Identify the key preparation steps of a literature review and use each step to effectively articulate their research question and literature review plan
- Identify the key considerations when evaluating journals, selecting the most appropriate journal for their literature review
- Build a strong and convincing argument using suitable literature and data to develop and present their argument in their literature review
- Write and structure a strong literature review avoiding common pitfalls when writing
- Recognize what each section of the literature review requires and formulate their own with the help of examples and guidelines.

Language: English

Time to complete: 5 hours

Level: Beginner

Instructor: Dr Robert Thomas

Online course full syllabus

MODULE ONE: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A LITERATURE REVIEW?

This module will look at what a literature review is and how it is used to establish where your research fits in.

Topics:

1. Why literature reviews matter
2. The complexity of literature reviews
3. Persuade the reader
4. Identify and justify your argument
5. Checkpoint

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MODULE TWO: WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOU START

Conducting a review will open up a whole new world of process, language and structures, so it's important to address it one step and a time. This module will show when building a review, the best place to start is the beginning.

Topics:

1. The process from start to finish
2. Finalize your research question and approach
3. Look at your assessment criteria
4. Reading strategies
5. Checkpoint

MODULE THREE: SELECTING AND ANALYZING THE RIGHT LITERATURE

When writing your literature review, it's important to understand that your argument already exists within the available literature. This module will help select the most appropriate journals for your review.

Topics:

1. Identifying sources
2. Which journals should I use?
3. Navigating an article
4. Reading an article in depth
5. Checkpoint

MODULE FOUR: HOW DO I CREATE MY ARGUMENT?

This module will look at why it is essential to engage in an academic argument and how to develop an argument throughout your literature review. It will explore using evidence and existing arguments.

Topics:

1. Engaging in an academic argument
2. Using evidence to form your argument
3. Looking at the existing arguments
4. Developing a counter argument
5. Checkpoint

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MODULE FIVE: HOW SHOULD I WRITE MY ARGUMENT?

This module will help you put pen to paper and structure a well-presented argument in your literature review.

Topics:

1. What to avoid avoiding bias, hyperbole, and generalization
2. How to write well
3. Keeping readers interested
4. Checkpoint

MODULE SIX: HOW SHOULD I STRUCTURE A LITERATURE REVIEW?

This module will go through the sections likely to be required in your literature review, what needs to be included in each, and how to write the different elements of a literature review.

Topics:

1. The overall structure
2. The introduction
3. The main body
4. The conclusion
5. Plagiarism
6. Checkpoint