Developing a Literature Review

Pratt Institute
Getting Started

Step One: Decide on your areas of research

Step Two: Search for the literature
Finding Resources/Bibliography

Step Three: Find relevant books and articles:
Look specifically for these five things:
1. Claims, conclusions, and findings about the topic you are investigating
2. Definitions of terms
3. Calls for follow-up studies relevant to your topic
4. Gaps you notice in the literature
5. Disagreement about the ideas you are investigating
Telling a Story

Step Four: Code the literature
Determine the main themes.

Step Five: Create An Outline

Step Six: Begin to Write Your Literature
Review
What is the purpose of a literature review

- Identify main ideas, conclusions and theories and establish similarities and differences
- Identify main methodologies and research techniques
- Identify major seminal works
- Identify gaps in literature
- Find other people working in your field
- Show relationships between previous studies or theories
- Provide a context for your own research
- Find out what information already exists in your field of research
– KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

– How to use language effectively to persuade, inform, educate, or entertain

– Rhetorical Situation: The circumstances in which you communicate
Considering Context

The Writer
The Purpose
The Audience
The Topic

The Context in which you write

The Culture in which you write
The Writer-Researcher

• Your culture, personal characteristics and interests affect what you write about and how you write it.
Considering Positionality

- Your age
- Your experiences
- Your gender
- Your location
- Your political beliefs
- Your parents and peers
- Your education
Telling a Good Story: Identifying Purpose

- Entertain
- Inform
- Shock
- Persuade
- Educate
- Call to Action

My Purpose
Audience: To Whom are you Writing?

- Many of the same factors which affect the writer also affect the audience
  - Age
  - Social class
  - Education
  - Past experience
  - Culture/subculture
  - Expectations
Writing about Research

- Category of writing: qualitative research

- Always consider the purpose and the needs/expectations of the projected audience.

- **Explore Your Favorite Kinds of Writing:** fiction, autobiographical story, news article, review, letter to the editor/editorial, rhetorical analysis, criticism, essay
Steps to Take

1. Research / Collect Resources
2. Draft an outline/mindmap
3. Create a thesis statement
4. Write the body of the text
5. Create an introduction that provides an overview of main points
6. Prepare a conclusion that summarizes your thoughts and ends with further questions/ideas
The End