

# Formulating a Literature Review

A literature review is a synthesis of the existing evidence on a topic that may or may not include a critical appraisal.

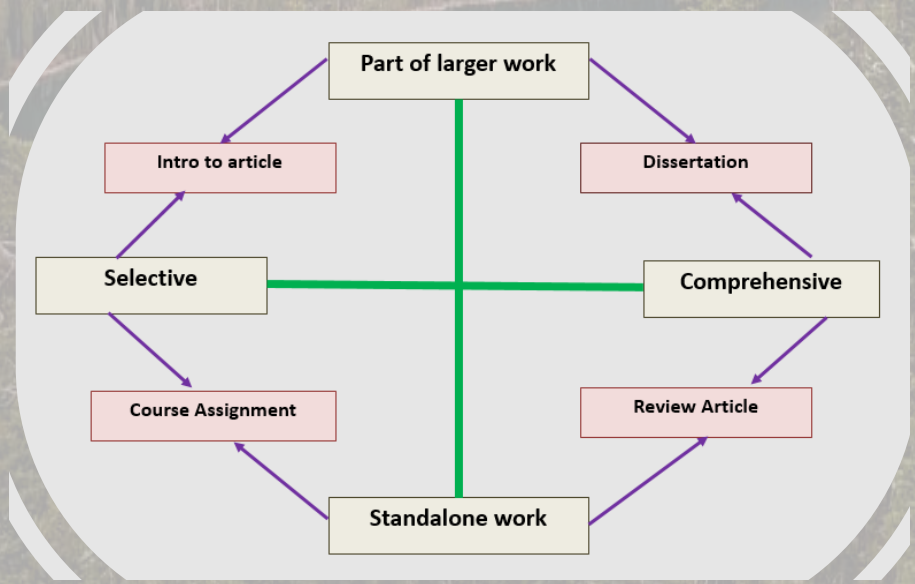
## Purpose

- \* Be organized around and related directly to the research question you are developing
- \* Summarizes the available evidence on a topic.
- \* Identify areas of controversy in the literature.
- \* Sets out the rationale for the research

## A well structured literature review is...

Comprehensive  
Integrative  
Well-written  
Relative  
Consistent  
Unbiased  
Current  
Structured  
Focused  
Identifies gaps  
Appropriate  
References  
Logical  
Concise  
Provides context

## Types of literature reviews



A literature review is more than the search for information, and goes beyond being a descriptive annotated bibliography. All works included in the review must be read, evaluated and analysed. Relationships between the literature must also be identified and articulated, in relation to your field of research.

## Read

[Pautasso M \(2013\) Ten Simple Rules for Writing a Literature Review. PLOS Computational Biology 9\(7\): e1003149.](#)

[Grant M and Booth A \(2009\). A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies. Health Information and Libraries Journal 26: 91-108. DOI: 10.1111/j.1471-1842.2009.00848.](#)

## Watch

[Writing and Searching](#)

Formulating your Literature Review  
Session 2 of 10: Protocol Development for Operational Research

[Searching for literature](#)

How to write a LITERATURE REVIEW