

Glossary

Argument: The presentation of one or more claims backed by credible evidence that supports a logical conclusion.

Argument of advocacy: An argument based on claims that have been proven as fact and that serves as the premise for logically driving a conclusion—in this case, the thesis statement of the literature review.

Argument of discovery: An argument proving that the findings of fact represent the current state of knowledge regarding the research topic.

Auditing: Reviewing completed work to check and align content and to proofread.

Backing: That which justifies the warrant.

Boolean search: A data search conducted using keywords connected by the logical operators *and*, *or*, and *not* to define the specific area of interest.

Claim: A declaration of proposed truth.

Complex argument: Arguments consisting of multiple claims formed to build premises that lead to a major thesis.

Complex literature review: This review extends the work of the simple review to identify and define an unanswered question requiring new primary research.

Core ideas: Central ideas that provide meaning to the interest statement under study.

Data: Pieces of information.

Deductive argument: An argument in which the premises necessarily imply the conclusion.

Descriptive reasoning: A process that examines data in order to identify or explain a phenomenon. It follows an if/then pattern. The *then* part is true when the *if* part has been proven.

Evidence: A set of data presented as the grounds for substantiating a claim.

Fallacy: An argument that leads to an erroneous or misleading conclusion.

Implicative reasoning: Reasoning that logically interprets evidence, producing propositions that signal a specific conclusion. If A is true, then we can assert that B is also true.

Inductive argument: Reasoning that moves from particular instance(s) to a general conclusion. The premises do not cause the conclusion, but the preponderance of evidence makes the conclusion likely or probable.

Key terms: Those words or phrases that control and define meaning.

Literature critique: A detailed analysis that interprets the current understanding of the research topic and logically determines how this knowledge answers the research question.

Literature review: A written document that develops a case to establish a thesis. This case is based on a comprehensive understanding of the current knowledge of the topic. A literature review synthesizes current knowledge pertaining to the research question. This synthesis is the foundation that, through the use of logical argumentation, allows the researcher to build a convincing thesis case.

Literature search: Collecting, cataloging, and documenting data that will determine salient works and refine the topic.

Literature survey: Building the argument about the current knowledge of the research topic.

Major claim: A major claim is based on the premises warranted by a complex argument. These premises are based on simple claims and their simple arguments.

Mapping: A technique that organizes the results of skimming to put the topic story together, building core idea and author maps and cross-referencing them.

Memoranda: Informal writing that includes a record of current activities and reminders of necessary further activities. Memoranda contain directive, advisory, and informative matter.

Personal interest or concern: The subject or question that provokes the need to inquire. This should not be confused with a preliminary topic.

Preliminary topic: A research interest statement that has been defined, limited to one subject of study, and linked to an appropriate academic discipline, enabling access to the relevant literature.

Premise: A previous statement of factor assertion that serves as the basis for a further argument.

Qualifiers: Data that demand rebuttal or concession and refute or limit the claim.

Reasoning: To discover, formulate, and conclude by the use of a carefully conducted analysis.

Reflective oversight: A contemplative thought process that critically regulates, assesses, and corrects the personal knowledge, skills, and tasks used to conduct the literature review.

Research query: A personal interest or concern that has been refined by focus, limit, and perspective.

Scanning: An organized search of library and online catalogs, subject-area encyclopedias, periodicals, indexes, and abstracts. The scan's purpose is to identify works for possible inclusion in the study.

Skimming: A rapid perusal of possible works to identify important ideas and their specific contribution to the research study and to determine whether or not to use the work.

Simple argument: Argument composed of a simple claim, its evidence, and its warrant.

Simple literature review: A written document that critically reviews the relevant literature on a research topic, presenting a logical case that establishes a thesis that delineates what is currently known about the subject.

Thesis: A declarative sentence that expresses a conclusion based on a case developed using existing knowledge, sound evidence, and reasoned argument.

Topic: A research area refined by interest, an academic discipline, and an understanding of relevant keywords and core concepts.

Warrant: The reasoning used in an argument to allow the researcher and any reader to accept the evidence presented as reasonable proof that a claim is correct.

Writing to understand: Journals, memoranda, notes, outlines, and all other forms of writing that allow the researcher to internalize the data, evidence, and arguments to be used in the literature review.

Writing to be understood: The preliminary, first, and subsequent drafts of a work that give the reader a complete and convincing understanding of the researcher's thesis.