












Literature Review Flowchart

The Six Steps of the Literature Review, Page 1




Step 1. Select a Topic

-  **Task 1.** Identify a Subject for Study
-  **Task 2.** Translate the Personal Interest or Concern Into a Research Query
 - *Activity 1. Focus a Research Interest*
 - *Activity 2. Limit the Interest*
 - *Activity 3. Select a Perspective*
 - *Activity 4. Reflect and Develop the Query Statement*
-  **Task 3.** Link the Research Query to the Appropriate Discipline
 - *Activity 1. Become Familiar With Academic Terminology Concerning the Study Topic*
 - *Activity 2. Gain Entry to the Literature Concerning the Topic of the Study*
 - *Activity 3. Consult With the Research Librarian*
-  **Task 4.** Write the Preliminary Research Topic Statement




Step 2. Develop the Tools of Argumentation

-  **Concept 1.** Building the Case for a Literature Review
-  **Concept 2.** Arguments—The Basics
-  **Concept 3.** Evaluating the Basic Parts of an Argument
-  **Concept 4.** Understanding Claims
-  **Concept 5.** Building Evidence
-  **Concept 6.** Warranting: Logically Connecting the Evidence to the Claim
-  **Concept 7.** Complex Claims

Step 3. Search the Literature

-  **Task 1.** Select the Literature to Review
-  **Task 2.** Conduct a Literature Search
 - *Activity 1. Manage Your Data*
 - *Activity 2. Scan the Literature*
 - *Activity 3. Skim the Literature*
 - *Activity 4. Map Your Reference Contents*
 - *Activity 5. Create Subject Memoranda*
-  **Task 3.** Refine Your Topic




Step 4. Survey the Literature

-  **Task 1.** Assemble the Collected Data
 - *Activity 1. Catalog the Data*
-  **Task 2.** Organize the Information
 - *Activity 1. Arrange Information to Build Evidence*
 - *Activity 2. Organize the Information and Build Claims*
-  **Task 3.** Analyze the Patterns of Data
 - *Activity 1. Map the Discovery Argument*
 - *Activity 2. Analyze the Argument*

Step 5. Critique the Literature

-  **Concept 1.** Making the Case for the Literature Review
-  **Concept 2.** Descriptive Argument Patterns: Factual Reasoning
-  **Concept 3.** Implicative Argument Patterns: Implicative Reasoning
-  **Concept 4.** The Implicative Argument: Nine Basic Patterns
-  **Concept 5.** Backing
-  Doing a Critique of the Literature
-  **Task 1.** Determine Logic Pattern Inferred by Study Topic
-  **Task 2.** Reframe Claims to Meet Conditions Required by Logic Type
-  **Task 3.** Build the Advocacy Argument
-  **Concept 6.** Fallacies
-  **Concept 7.** The Case Is Everything

Step 6. Write the Review

-  **Task 1.** Write to Understand
 - *Activity 1. Review Notes and Memoranda*
 - *Activity 2. Exploratory Write*
 - *Activity 3. Outline*
 - *Activity 4. Write Preliminary Draft*
-  **Task 2.** Write to Be Understood
 - *Activity 1. Write the First Draft*
 - *Activity 2. Revise—Working the Second and Third Drafts*
 - *Activity 3. Complete the Final Draft*
-  **Submit the Literature Review**