

Write E-Lecture
The Literature Review: A Research Journey

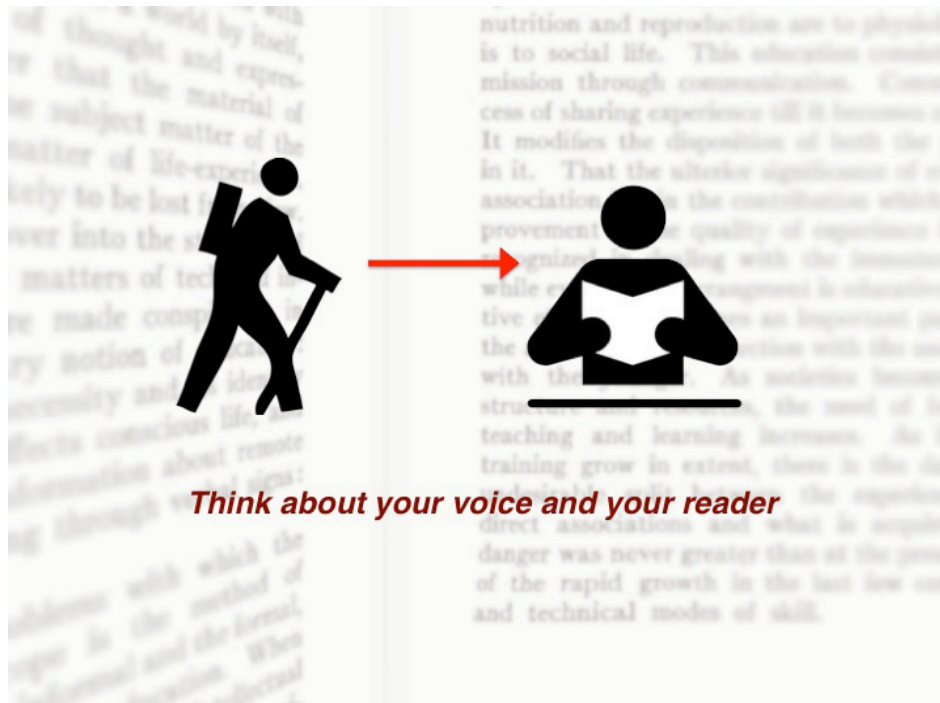
In writing the literature review, your purpose is to communicate your conclusions about how the literature addresses your research question.

Learning Objectives

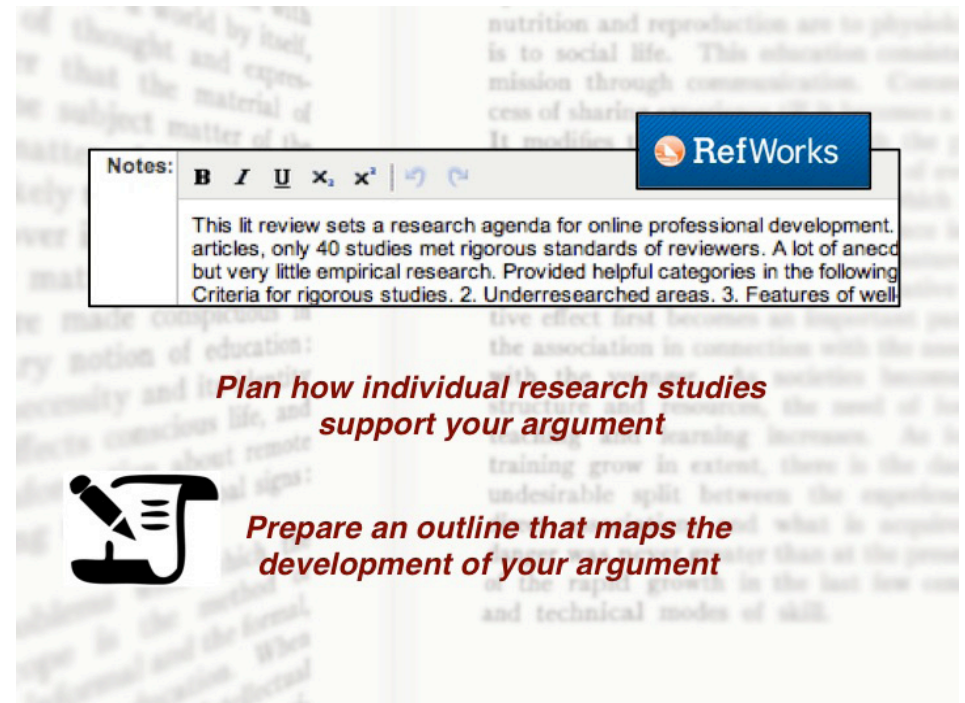
- Outline a well-structured review
- Construct and situate a clearly stated argument
- Guide your reader from argument to conclusion

By the end of this e-lecture, you'll be able to:

Outline a well-structured review
Construct and situate a clearly stated argument
Guide your reader from argument to conclusion



Before you begin to write, think about your voice and your reader. You want your writing to communicate your knowledge. You want to write with an awareness of your reader. You want your introduction to be clear and 'hook' your reader's interest.



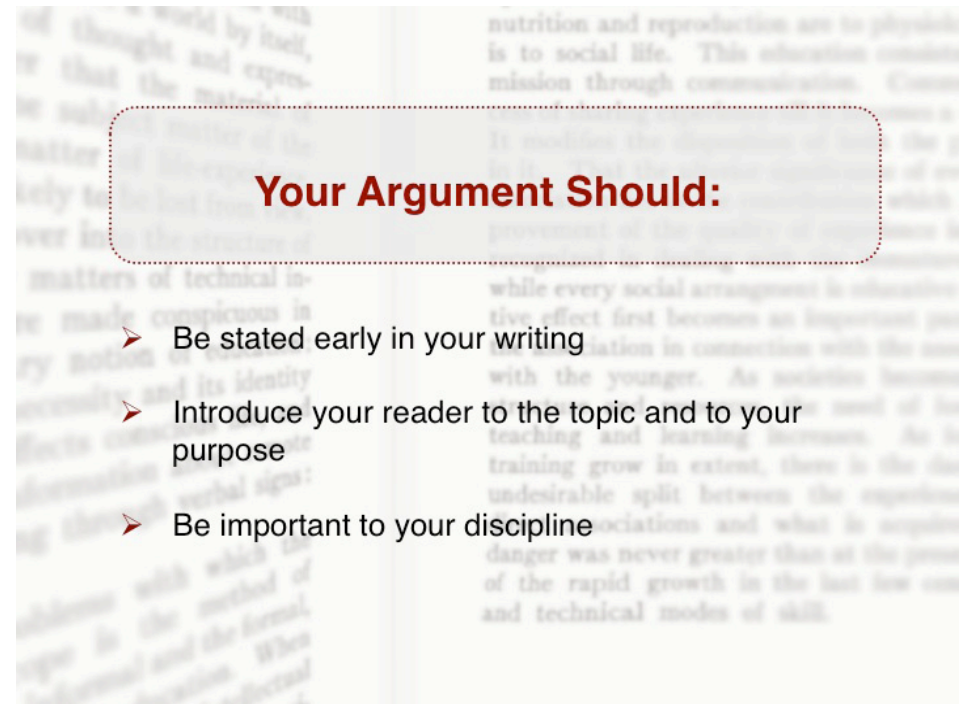
Using your notes, plan how individual research studies coherently and logically support your argument. Prepare an outline that maps the development of your argument from introduction to conclusion.



Use the introduction to state the scope of your review

To inform your reader about the scope of your review, use the introduction to state what will and will not be covered.

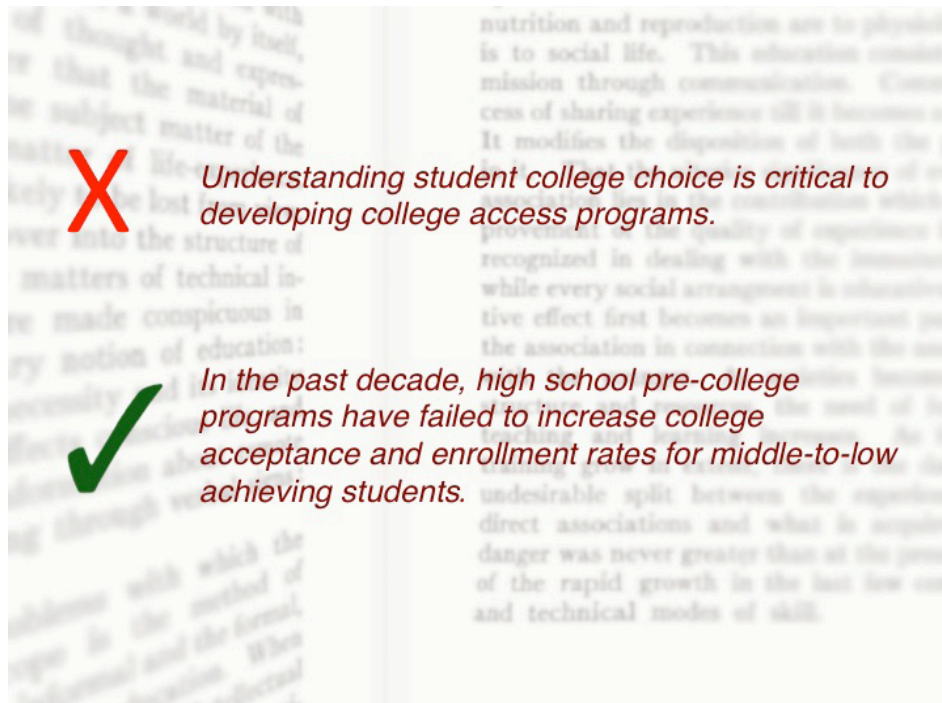
For example, your research may have included international and national studies, but if you've chosen to limit supporting research to U.S.-based studies, it's important to tell your reader about the rationale for your decision.



Your Argument Should:

- Be stated early in your writing
- Introduce your reader to the topic and to your purpose
- Be important to your discipline

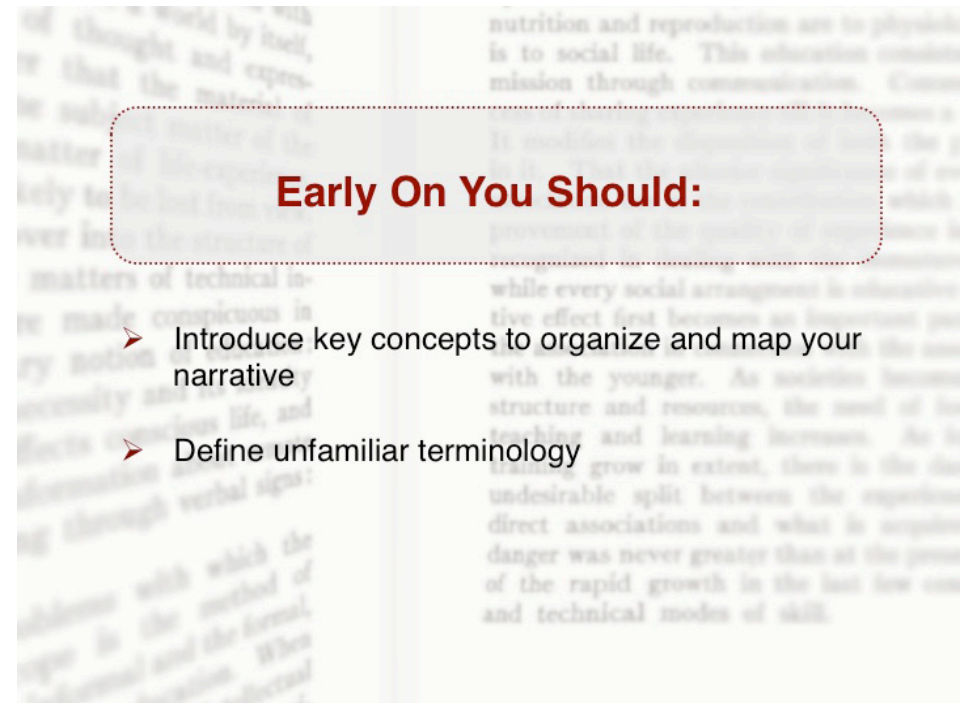
Clearly state your argument early in your writing. The argument introduces your reader to the topic and to your purpose. It structures your entire narrative and should convey the importance of your argument to your discipline.



X Understanding student college choice is critical to developing college access programs.

✓ In the past decade, high school pre-college programs have failed to increase college acceptance and enrollment rates for middle-to-low achieving students.

For example, you may argue that understanding student college choice is critical to developing college access programs. But because this argument states a generally acknowledged relationship in the literature of college equity and access, there is no need to debate the point. An argument should present a view that someone might reasonably challenge. For example: In the past decade, high school pre-college programs have failed to increase college acceptance and enrollment rates for middle-to-low achieving students.



Early On You Should:

- Introduce key concepts to organize and map your narrative
- Define unfamiliar terminology

Early on, introduce the key concepts used to organize and map your narrative. Throughout the literature review, define unfamiliar terminology for your reader. Your definitions are important for reader understanding.

Your Narrative Should:

- Use the literature to help your reader make sense of the knowledge you're presenting on a topic
- Construct and present evidence for your argument
- Reflect your scholarly thought process from the introduction of your argument to its conclusion

In writing your narrative, use the literature to help your reader make sense of the knowledge you're presenting on a topic. With relevant theories and topic relationships drawn from the literature, construct and present evidence for your argument. Your supporting evidence should highlight the relationships you've found and strategically present your ideas and key findings. Convey to your reader what you have learned, how you've interpreted, and why you've developed your argument as you have. The narrative should reflect your scholarly thought process from the introduction of your argument to its conclusion.



Guide your reader through your narrative

Provide a clear destination via signposts

- Introduction
- Conclusion
- Headings
- Subheadings
- Transitional Sentences



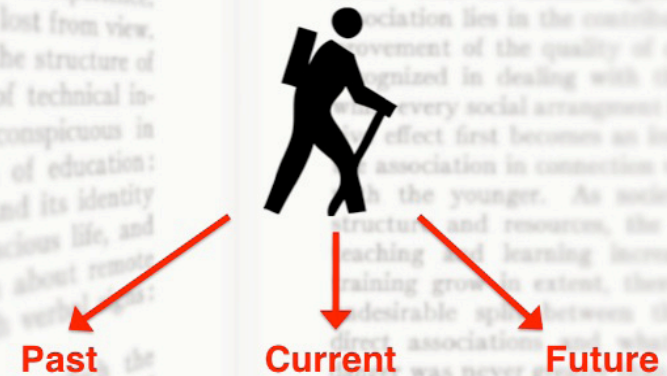
When you write, guide your reader through the narrative to ensure understanding. Provide a clear destination via 'signposts.' The introduction and conclusion are obvious signposts. Additional signposts might include section headings, subheadings, and transitional sentences.

Throughout the Narrative:

- Demonstrate your understanding of the theories and authors you review
- Establish your position in relation to previous research
- Carefully cite all sources

Throughout the narrative, demonstrate your understanding of the theories and authors you review. Establish your position in relation to previous research. To ensure that your reader can easily distinguish your interpretations from the findings of the studies reviewed, carefully cite all sources.

Your review identifies what is known and not known about your research question



Your review of the literature identifies what is known and not known about your research question. Because your review offers an examination of past and current research, you may be able to offer implications for practice and for future research. Remember, a well-written review reflects your scholarly accomplishment.