Literature Review

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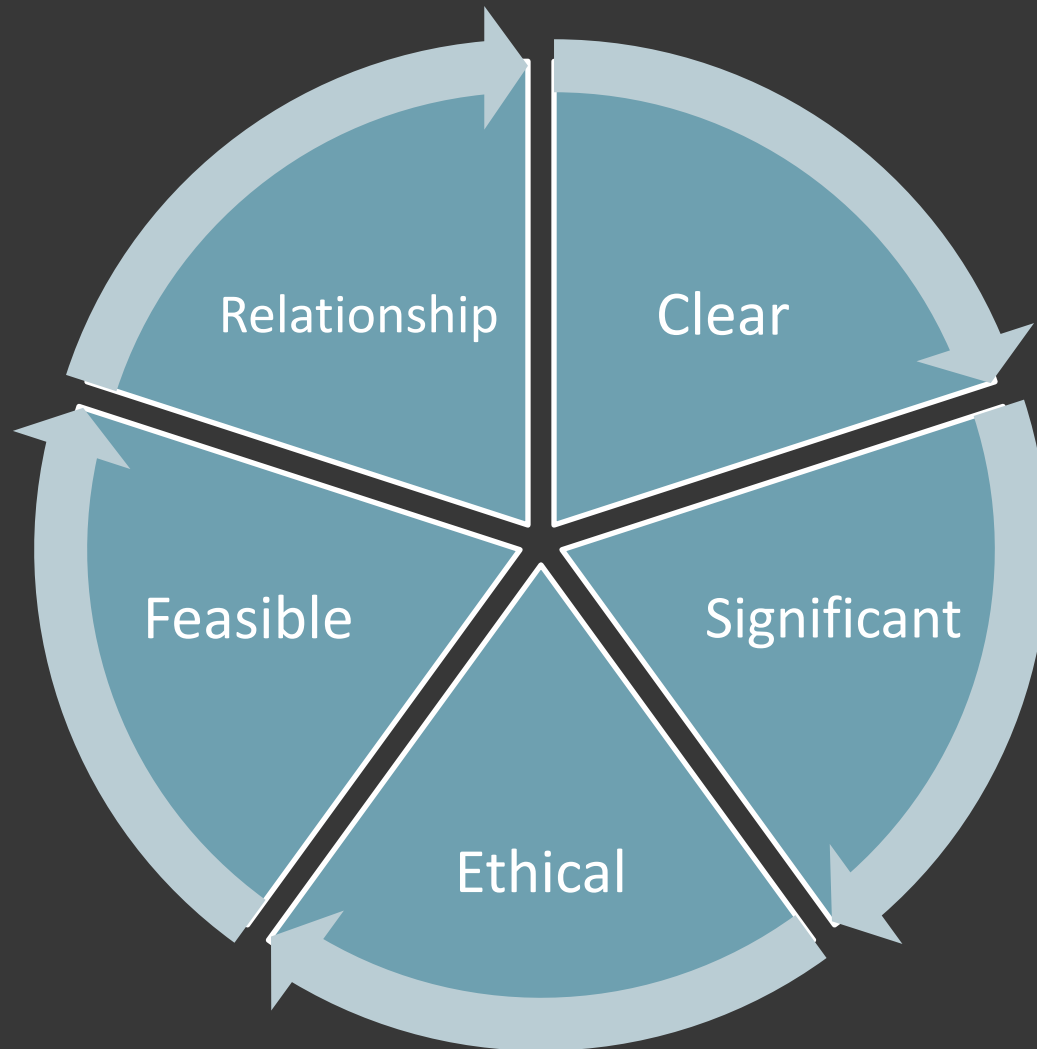
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Overview

- Review our progress

- Review Research Questions

- How to conduct literature review

- Structured abstract

- Introduction of Research Methods

A Quick Review

Characters of good research questions?

Operational Definition

- How do you plan to **MEASURE** it?

- How do you plan to conduct the **EXPERIMENT** to study it?

Chapter One

- Introduction/problem statement
- Purpose of the study
- Conceptual framework or theoretical orientation
- Research questions and hypotheses
- Definition of terms
- Significance of the study
- Limitations, delimitations, and assumptions
- Organization of the Study

Theory

- Pulls together results of **observations** – help to organize and unify them

- Enable one to **make general statements** about variables and relationships among variables

- Provides information to **make specific predictions** of research outcomes

- Directs and promotes **future research**

Hypothesis sets forth an anticipated relationship between two or more variables

Types of Hypotheses

- Null Hypothesis
- Research Hypothesis
  - Directional
  - Nondirectional

Examples

- Student who live in campus housing will be more academically engaged.

- There will be no difference between students who live on and off campus in terms of their academic engagement.

- There will be differences between students who live on and off campus in terms of their academic engagement.

How to lost a dissertation in **10** seconds?

These can happen to you!

- Computer virus attack
- Hard disk failing
- Someone steals your computer
- Accidental deletion
- Fire/Flood destroys your computer

Backup! Backup! Backup!

- First Step
  - Name your file with a date and time stamp
  - Example: Dissertation_09222010_0630.doc
- Backup options
  - External hard disk/USB flash drive
  - Backup software - SyncBack
  - Online backup services – Mozy.com
  - Gmail backup – easy and free
    - Open a Gmail account at http://gmail.com
    - Send your file daily to your new Gmail account

Chapter 2
Literature Review

Why literature review?

- Assists in formulating research question
- Points out possible research strategies
- Points out possible measuring devices
- Provides a context-rationale for study
- Facilitates interpretation of study results
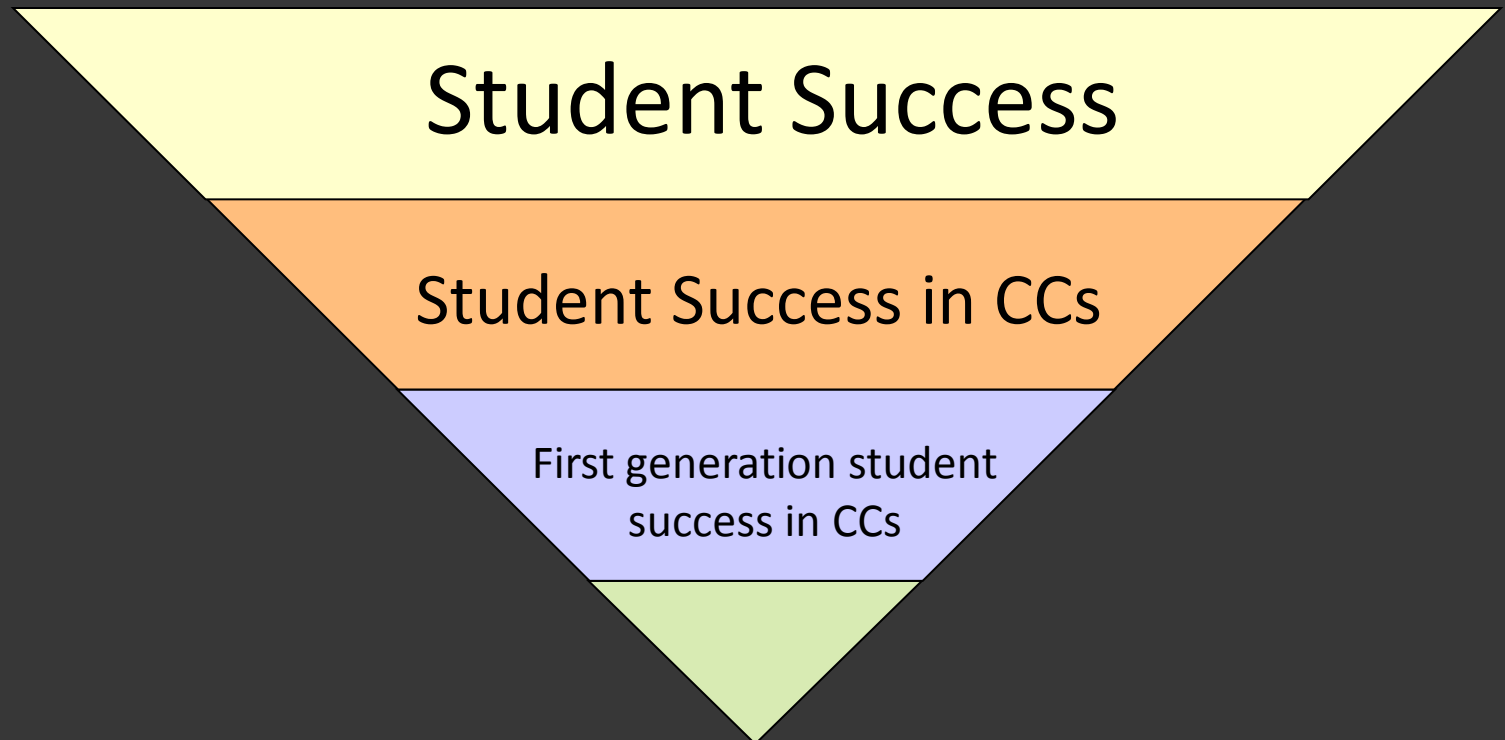
Literature review can...

- Introduce you to significant research personalities

- Help you find opportunities to replicate or extend pervious study

- Help you find inconsistencies in studies

- Question applicability of findings to different samples, culture, and regions

- Indicate a study may already have been conducted

Keep your focus

- Always keep your research questions in mind

- Studies already conducted related to your research questions

- Suggestions about what studies still need to be conducted

- Empirical studies instead of opinions

Key to a good literature review

- Begin your search like inverted pyramid
- Broad topic to specific nature of research proposal

Student Success

Student Success in CCs

First generation student success in CCs

Where does it come from?

- Sources
  - Peer reviewed journal articles
    - Journal of College Student Development
    - Review of Higher Education
    - Research in Higher Education
    - Journal of Higher Education
  - Reputable edited journal articles
    - "New Directions" series
    - Change Magazine, Liberal Education, Peer Review, Phi Delta Kappan, Educational Researcher...etc.
  - Books from reputable authors and publishers

Where does it come from?

- Other sources:
  - Conference presentations and proceedings
  - Published reports by universities, federal, state, or local government, or independent research or policy institutions
  - Dissertations or theses
  - ERIC ED documents
  - Reputable magazines or newspaper (for facts)
  - Reference books

Don't quote these…

- Wikipedia (good luck!)
- Individual web pages and blogs
- Personal communications
- Newspaper or magazines (for research findings)
- Secondary sources

Remember this…

- Use **PRIMARY** Sources!!!
  - Primary source – description of study written by person who conducted it
  - Secondary source – much briefer description of study written by other than original researchers

Which are which?

- ***Education and Identity*** (1993) by Arthur Chickering and Linda Reisser

Primary

- ***How College Affects Students*** (2005) by Ernest Pascarella and Patrick Terenzini

Secondary

More on Secondary Sources

- Use secondary sources as a starting point, but don't end there

- Secondary data study or study using existing data are **NOT** secondary source

Where do I start my search?

- ERIC http://www.eric.ed.gov/

- PsycInfo (psychology related research)

- LexisNexis (policy, law, business news)

- UNT Library http://tinyurl.com/untedu

- Google Scholar http://scholar.google.com

- ISI Web of Knowledge

- Book or journal article reference lists

Where do I start my search?

- Make sure you search broadly using multiple search engines
- Go through the table of contents for the last 15 years in the following journals:
  - JHE, Review of HE, Research in HE, JCSD
  - New Directions series
  - ASHE Higher Education Report
  - Review of Educational Research
  - Review of Research in Education

College Student Journal

Alternative sources

- Ask around (professors and classmates)
- Course reading
- Online discussion forum
- Amazon.com
- Librarians
- Internet search engines (as a start point)
- Wikipedia (as a start point)

How to analyze literature

- Step 1: Pre-reading
  - Read the title and abstract
  - Read the first several paragraphs
  - Read the last paragraph before the "Method" section, where you can usually find the research purposes, questions, and hypotheses
  - Scan the middle parts of the article
  - Read the first few paragraphs under "Discussion", which usually contains the summary of major findings

How to analyze literature

- Step 2: Group articles by categories
  - By topics and subtopics
  - Create your own keywords and attached it to the article
- Step 3: Organize yourself
  - You need a computer, a pack of note cards or a notepad, several packs of self-adhesive flags, highlighters...etc.
- Step 4: Use a consistent format in your notes

Information Management

- Record complete bibliographical data
  - Author
  - Title (including subtitle)
  - Journal title
  - Editor(s) (if any)
  - Edition
  - Volume
  - Place published
  - Publisher
  - Date published
  - Page numbers of articles or chapters
  - Call number
  - URL
  - Date of access
  - Webmaster (if identified)
  - Database (if any)

Structured Abstract

- Background/Context
- Purpose
- Setting
- Population
- Intervention
- Research Design
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Finding
- Conclusions

Reference Management

- Citation Management Software
  - EndNote
  - Reference Manager
  - Zotero (Firefox extension) http://www.zotero.org/
  - Mendeley http://www.mendeley.com/
- Wikipedia Reference Management List http://tinyurl.com/wikiref

Recording the literature finding

- Bibliographical data
- Keywords
- Summary
  - Purpose and research questions
  - Population, data collection and analytical methods
  - Results and implications
- Worth quoting sentences
- Your comments and thoughts

How to analyze literature (continued)

- Step 5: Look for explicit definitions of key terms
  - Keep notes on different definitions
- Step 6: Look for methodological strengths and weaknesses
  - Which studies provide the strongest evidence?
  - Which studies utilize the most appropriate methods?
  - Look for patterns of weakness across groups of studies

How to analyze literature (continued)

- Step 7: Distinguish between assertion and evidence
  - Finding derives from the evidence presented
  - Assertion is the author's opinion

Distinguish between assertion and evidence

Conflict-resolution programs are being implemented in many schools because they reduce suspensions and detentions, referrals to principle, and absenteeism, while increasing students' self-confidence, time spent on academic tasks, and academic achievement (Araki, 1990; David, 1986; Lam, 1989; Marshall, 1987; Maxwell, 1989; Tolson, McDonald, & Moriarty, 1992).

Distinguish between assertion and evidence

Although conflict-resolution programs are being implemented in many schools, there has been little empirical research on their effectiveness. Advocates for conflict-resolution programs in schools *have asserted* that the program reduce suspensions and detentions...while increase student's self confidence...and academic achievement (Araki, 1990; David, 1986; Lam, 1989; Marshall, 1987; Maxwell, 1989; Tolson, McDonald, & Moriarty, 1992).

How to analyze literature (continued)

- Step 8: Identify major trends, patterns, and relationship among studies

- Step 9: Identify gaps in the literature

- Step 10: Note how each reviewed article relates to your topic

- Step 11: Evaluate your reference list for currency and for coverage

Prepare to write

- Create the structure/framework of your literature review using heading (topics) and subheadings (subtopics)
- Example:
  - Predicting Academic Success among First-Year, First Generation Students
    - Grade Point Average as a Measure of Academic Success
    - Factors Related to Academic Success
    - Demographic Factors Related to Academic Success of First Generation Students

Prepare to write

- Telling the story in your own voice
  - Avoid quotes
  - Paraphrase, paraphrase, paraphrase
  - Summarize finding at the end of each section
  - Strive for clarity
  - Connect literature review with research questions
  - Integrate – answer "What does all this mean?"

Other tips

- Don't ignore studies that differ from majority or personal bias
- Read most recent ones first, oldest last
- Read important landmark works
- Use data-based, empirical studies
- Opinion pieces and descriptive research helpful in introduction – set stage
- Not a literary production- be clear and concise

Other tips

- Using Boote and Beile's (2005) article and literature review scoring rubric as a guideline

Remember

- Literature review is **NOT** a series of abstracts or annotations

Integrate

Integrate

Integrate

Remember

- Don't spend your precious time on irrelevant, in relation to your research, but interesting literature or articles.

To Do list

- Continue working on your research questions and chapter 1

- Begin to search for and read literature related to your research topic

- While reading literature, tweak your research questions and look for theory that may explain the phenomena you have observed