

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### 1. Select sources

Which are the 20 most relevant resources on your thesis topic?

When choosing resources please consider:

*Provenance*—What are the author’s credentials? Are the author’s arguments supported by evidence (e.g. primary historical material, case studies, narratives, statistics, recent scientific findings)?

*Objectivity*—Is the author’s perspective even-handed or prejudicial? Is contrary data considered or is certain pertinent information ignored to prove the author’s point?

*Persuasiveness*—Which of the author’s theses are most/least convincing?

*Value*—Are the author’s arguments and conclusions convincing? Does the work ultimately contribute in any significant way to an understanding of the subject?

Select the 5 most relevant ones among those 20

### 2. Written response

After getting familiar with the first resource, write a 500 words response.

Identify the author’s purpose.

Ask yourself, what theme or central idea did the author want to communicate? (We call this central idea an ‘argument’.)

What is the argument of this text? How is the argument build? How does the author prove their point?

Which discussion, evidence, and cases are presented?

Who is the author?

How is she/he positioned in the broader literature?

Which field of study is she/he writing from?

Trace the intellectual progression of the field, including significant debates.

Where does the argument of the book stand in the discourse on your subject matter (is it controversial, aligned with previous research, innovative, conservative, provocative? and why?

How does it contribute?

Which are the stances the text takes?

What assumptions do the author seem to be making?

Note experts in the field; note conflicting theories, results, methodologies.

Watch for popularity of theories and how this has/has not changed over time

What methodologies do they use? What testing procedures, subjects, material tested?

Evaluate and synthesize the research findings and conclusions drawn. In your analysis of the resource look for claims, conclusions, and findings about the constructs you are investigating; definitions of terms; calls for follow-up studies relevant to your project; gaps you notice in the literature; disagreement about the constructs you are investigating.

Remember to discuss how and why don’t just summarize.

Here an example of the difference between analyzing and summarizing:

Sample Story	Summary	Analysis!
<b>Robin Hood</b>	Robin Hood stole goods and money from the rich residents of his town to give to the town’s poorer residents.	The use of a monarchy or kingdom setting in Robin Hood allowed the author to portray the abuses of power that often occur among the wealthiest members of a community.
<b>Snow White</b>	Snow White falls into a deep, death-like slumber when she takes a bite of a poisoned apple.	The use of certain plot elements in Snow White, such as the poisoned apple and resulting slumber, help readers understand that being too trusting can lead to dire consequences.
<b>Cinderella</b>	Cinderella tells the story of a young girl whose evil stepmother tries to keep her from her true love.	The author of Cinderella paired lazy female characters with a hard-working female protagonist to show that hard work leads to love and happiness.

### **3. Design response**

Each week you will design a response to your written text.

Feb 22: *Typographic*

The response should use typography and composition to communicate your the points you made in the text. It must be printed, size choices should be made appropriately for your design. It could be a poster, a photographic composition, a folio, a digital composition, a collage, a book.

March 1: *Material Exploration*

March 8: *Interactive*

March 22: *Speculative Design*

March 29: *Performance*

Your media should be chosen to embody your argument. Detail brief on design responses will be distributed each week.

### **4. Write a narrative to connect the different pieces**

Combine all the texts and your design responses in one chapter by connecting and relating them to each others. How can this list of text and responses be edited to describe a landscape of the literature on your subject matter in a unified way?

It can be chronological, argumentative, oppositional, conceptual, etc.