



## Pre-Writing: Literature Review

Step 1: In Column I in the chart below, list the issues/themes you must cover in your literature review. Here are some themes/issues you might consider:

- Do you need a section that presents general background on the topic of your research?
- Do you need a section that presents theoretical background or foundational knowledge in your field about the issue you will research?
- Could you organize the previous research related to yours around: a) the various positions taken by researchers; b) around the various findings of previous research; c) around various implications of the previous research?
- Do you need a section that presents the various methodology related to your work?

Step 2: For each issue/theme you have listed, what are the articles you have that relate to it? List them in Column 2 and briefly summarize the important information from each article you will present: what the authors did, when they did it, key findings, how they reached their conclusions, etc.

Step 3: What is the “story” you wish to tell about each issues? In other words, what do you want readers to take away after they read all the articles about each issue? How does this “story” or “take away” relate to the next issue/theme and how does it pave the way to your research focus?

Step 4: Is there a gap, problem or unresolved issue you will identify after you have reviewed all the articles related to a given issue/theme?

Issues/Themes	List of Articles	Story/Take Away	Gap/Problem/Unresolved Issue