

Part III: Writing the First Draft of Your Literature Review

9 Synthesizing Trends and Patterns: Preparing to Write

Guideline 1: Consider Your Purpose and Voice before Beginning to Write

Guideline 2: Consider How to Reassemble Your Notes

Guideline 3: Create a Topic Outline That Traces Your Argument

Guideline 4: Reorganize Your Notes According to the Path of Your Argument

Guideline 5: Within Each Topic Heading, Note Differences among Studies

Guideline 6: Within Each Topic Heading, Look for Obvious Gaps or Areas
Needing Additional Research

Guideline 7: Plan to Briefly Describe Relevant Theories

Guideline 8: Plan to Discuss How Individual Studies Relate to and Advance
Theory

Guideline 9: Plan to Summarize Periodically and Again near the End of
the Review

Guideline 10: Plan to Present Conclusions and Implications

Guideline 11: Plan to Suggest Specific Directions for Future Research near
the End of the Review

Guideline 12: Flesh out Your Outline with Details from Your Analysis

Activities for Chapter 9

Notes

10 Guidelines for Writing a First Draft

Guideline 1: Begin by Identifying the Broad Problem Area, but Avoid
Global Statements

Guideline 2: Early in the Review, Indicate Why the Topic Being Reviewed
Is Important

Guideline 3: Distinguish Between Research Findings and Other Sources of
Information

Guideline 4: Indicate Why Certain Studies Are Important

Guideline 5: If You Are Commenting On the Timeliness of a Topic, Be
Specific In Describing the Time Frame

Guideline 6: If Citing a Classic or Landmark Study, Identify It as Such

Guideline 7: If a Landmark Study Was Replicated, Mention That and
Indicate the Results of the Replication