Your Quick Guide to Literature Reviews

1. Online guidance at bit.ly/LitReviewChico

2. Use what you know about
   - Reading Journal Articles to get to the info you need
   - Source Synthesis
     (Visit libguides.unco.edu/bridgethegap for these)

3. The Lit Review Formula:
   A. One idea per sentence
   B. Collect sources that share an idea into one parenthetical citation
   C. Insert your analysis to make fuzzy connections between ideas more clear
   D. Use C. to create logical stepping stones:
      To what understanding do you want to lead your reader?

4. A Sample Paragraph:

   Topic sentence - identifies five major themes as the scope of this review
   Many theories have been proposed to explain what motivates human behaviour. Although the literature covers a wide variety of such theories, this review will focus on five major themes which emerge repeatedly throughout the literature reviewed. These themes are: incorporation of the self-concept into traditional theories of motivation, the influence of rewards on motivation, the increasing importance of internal forces of motivation, autonomy and self-control as sources of motivation, and narcissism as an essential component of motivation. Although the literature presents these themes in a variety of contexts, this paper will primarily focus on their application to self-motivation.

   Concluding sentence - specific focus

   5 major themes to be covered

Image from Literature review (rmit.edu.au)

5. For help with APA in-text citations visit https://guides.lib.ua.edu/APA7/intextcitations

Need more help?
Let’s meet!
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