

Craft of Research

Week 4: Literature Reviews and Methods Sections

Outline

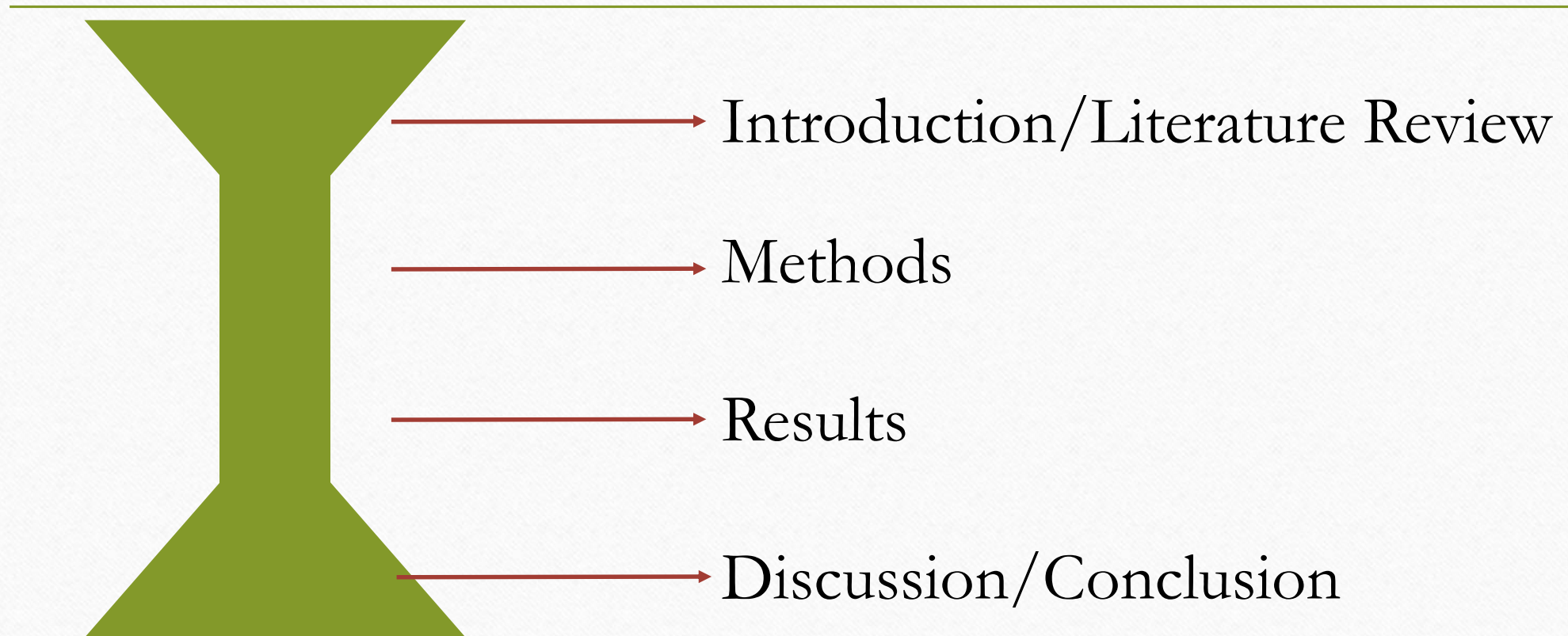
- Milestone updates from each team
- Literature review/introduction section
- Methods section
- Upcoming
- Reminders

How are your milestones
progressing?

IMRD Structure

What is this?

IMRD Structure



Literature Review Section

What is this?

BEFORE Writing a Literature Review

- Consider the following questions:
 - ✓ Why is this problem important?
 - ✓ How does the study relate to previous work in the area?
 - ✓ What are the primary and secondary hypotheses and objectives of the study?
 - ✓ How do the hypotheses and research design relate to one another?
 - ✓ What are the theoretical and practical implications of the study?

Literature Review Key Objectives

1. Gain and maintain readers' attention
2. Demonstrate knowledge on topic
3. Claim the relevance of your chosen topic
4. Identify an area that needs to be addressed by research
(gap in knowledge)
5. Introduce present research

Basic Organization of Literature Reviews

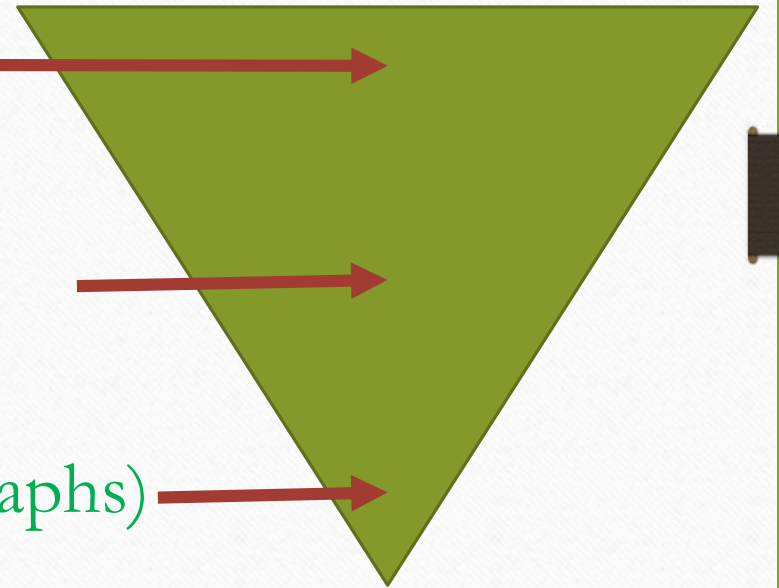
A. General Background (1 to 2 paragraphs)



B. Addressing Specific Area (3+ paragraphs)



C. Purpose of Current Research (1 to 2 paragraphs)

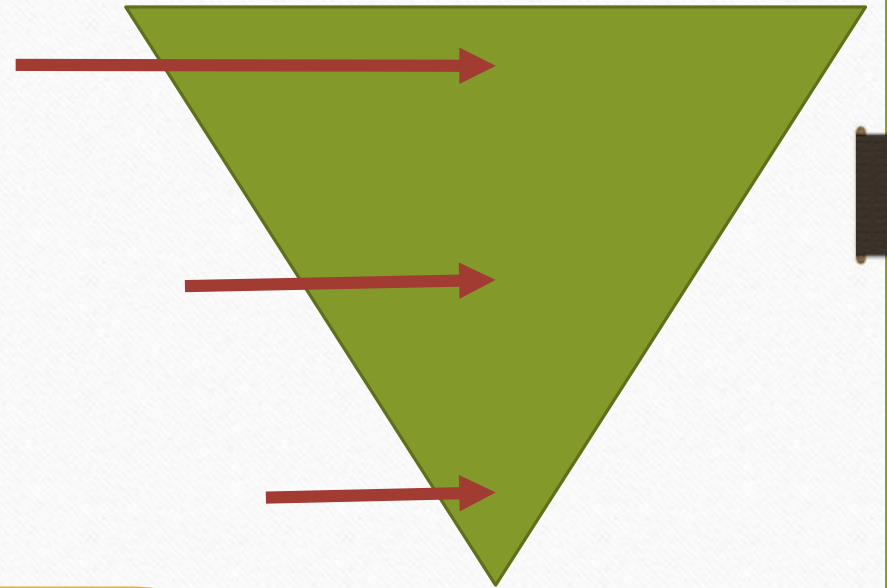


Basic Organization of Literature Reviews

A. Establishing a Territory (Goal/Move 1)

B. Identifying a Niche (Goal/Move 2)

C. Addressing the Niche (Goal/Move 3)



Culminates to current research
questions/aims/hypotheses

Tips for Writing Literature Reviews

- Tense: **Past**
- Length: **It depends**
- Number of sources: **Depends on length (~20 to 30 on average)**
- Create a Literature Table in excel to keep track of information
 - *See template on CoR website*

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Widowhood, Bereavement, and Socioemotional Resources in Older Adulthood							
2					Kinship Social Support	Psychological Adaptation/Distress non-Social Support		
3					Cross Over	General Social Support		
4	Reference	Year	Aims/Research Questions	Sample	Theory	Analytics	Key Terms	Results
5	Antonucci, T. C., Lansford, J. E., Schaberg, L., Smith, J., Baltes, M., Akiyama, H., . . . Dartigues, J. (2001). Widowhood and illness: A comparison of social network characteristics in France, Germany, Japan, and the United States. <i>Psychology and Aging</i> , 16(4), 655-665. doi:http://dx.doi.org.proxy.lib.iastate.edu/10.1037/0882-7974.16.4.655	2001	Social network characteristics in relation to widowhood and illness in France, Germany, Japan, and the US	Representative sample from each country (N = 1331)	Socioemotional selectivity theory	ANOVA	Cross-cultural Social support	Resource deficit profiles based on whether respondents were widowed, ill, both, or neither were directly related to social network characteristics for German and Japanese adults, were differentially related by gender and age for French adults, and were not related to social networks of Americans. Country, gender, and age differences in total network size, proportion of close network members, and frequency of contact with network members are reported
6	Ben-Zur, H. (2012). Loneliness, optimism, and well-being among married, divorced, and widowed individuals. <i>The Journal of Psychology: Interdisciplinary and Applied</i> , 146(1-2), 23-36. doi:http://dx.doi.org.proxy.lib.iastate.edu/10.1080/00223980.2010.548414	2012	Loneliness and dispositional optimism contributions to well-being	196 married, divorced, and widowed	Conservation of resources theory; behavioral self-regulation theory	Structural equation model	Loneliness, life satisfaction, optimism, well-being	Widows and widowers scored higher than married respondents on loneliness and negative affect and lower on life satisfaction and optimism. Divorced persons scored lower on life satisfaction than married respondents but higher than widows and widowers on optimism. Loneliness was negatively correlated with optimism. Multiple regression analyses using demographics, family status, loneliness, and optimism as independent variables showed that loneliness contributed negatively to well-being, while optimism contributed positively to well-being. A Structural Equation Modeling analysis and mediation tests showed that both loneliness and optimism mediated the effects of widowhood on well-being.
7	Carr, D., & Sharp, S. (2013). Do afterlife beliefs affect psychological adjustment to late-life spousal loss? <i>Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences</i> , 69(1), 103-112. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbt063. Advance Access publication June 29, 2013	2013	1) Do beliefs about the existence and nature of an afterlife affect the psychological symptoms of anxiety, anger, depression, intrusive thoughts, and yearning among recently bereaved older spouses? 2) Do afterlife beliefs protect against psychological distress following late-life spousal loss?	Changing Lives of Older Couples (CLOC)		Data prior to loss, 6-months post, and 18 months post loss; Multivariate regressions	Afterlife beliefs, intrusive thoughts, psychological distress, anger, yearning, anxiety	"[A]fterlife beliefs are neither uniformly protective nor distressing; rather, the effects of afterlife beliefs depend on the certainty and content of one's views, the specific outcomes considered, and one's stage in the bereavement process." 1) Intrusive thoughts are particularly sensitive to one's afterlife beliefs, 2) Persons who believe in an afterlife, yet who hold the bleak view that loved ones are not reunited, reveal a range of problematic psychological symptoms in short and longer term following loss, 3) Persons who believe in an afterlife have significantly fewer anger symptoms than nonbelievers, yet this protective effect is lagged and emerges only 18 months postloss, 4) we did not detect a statistically significant effect of afterlife beliefs on either yearning or anxiety symptoms.
8	Carr, D., House, J. S., Wortman, C., Neese, R., & Kessler, R. C. (2001). Psychological adjustment to sudden and anticipated spousal loss among older widowed persons. <i>The Journals of Gerontology: Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences</i> , 56B(4), S237-S248. doi:http://dx.doi.org.proxy.lib.iastate.edu/10.1093/geronb/56.4.S237	2001	1) Does older adults' psychological adjustment to widowhood vary if the death was sudden or anticipated? 2) Are these effects mediated by the death context characteristics?	Changing Lives of Older Couples (CLOC); 210 widowed older adults		Logistic regression, Ordinary Least Squares Regression; 6 months and 18 months post loss	Depression, grief, anger, shock, anxiety, yearning	Death forewarning is not a significant predictor of broad mental health outcomes (depression/grief) at 6 and 18 or postloss shock and anger. Prolonged forewarning increases survivors' anxiety levels both at 6 and 18. Harmful effects of advanced forewarning cannot be explained away by caregiving, couple communication, spouse's age at death, or being in a nursing home Sudden death is associated with elevated intrusive thoughts yet reduced anxiety. Slightly higher levels of yearning among women, but significantly lower yearning among men

Activity 1: Lit. Review Goals/Moves

- Groups of 2
- Open the sample paragraph on CoR website
- Annotate each sentence by communicative goals in the following colors:
 - **Goal/Move 1: Establishing a Territory**
 - **Goal/Move 2: Identifying a Niche**
 - **Goal/Move 3: Addressing the Niche**
- Use the steps as helpful hints... what purpose does each sentence serve?

Activity 1: Lit. Review Goals/Moves

1) Establishing a Territory

- Claiming centrality
- General background
- Reviewing previous research

2) Identifying a Niche

- Indicating a gap
- Highlighting a problem
- Raising *general* questions
- Proposing *general* hypotheses
- Presenting justification

3) Addressing the Niche

- Introducing/announcing present research descriptively or purposefully
- Presenting research questions/hypotheses
- Clarifying definitions
- Summarizing methods
- Announcing principal outcomes
- Stating value of present research
- Outlining structure of the paper

Methods Section

What is this?

Methods Key Objectives

1. Describe how data were obtained
2. Explain how concepts and variables were used
3. Inform on the techniques utilized to gain the results

Basic Organization of Methods Section

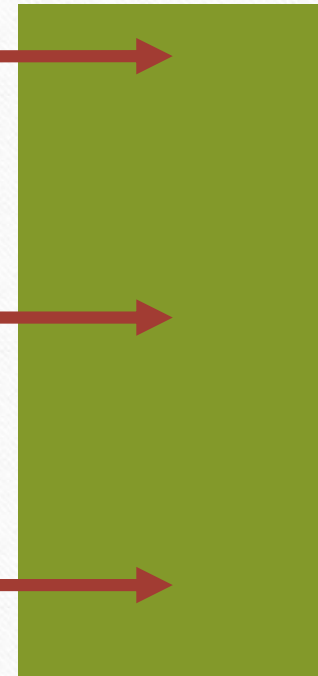
A. Contextualizing Study Methods



B. Describing the Study



C. Analyzing the Data



Basic Organization of Methods Section

1) Contextualizing Study Methods

- Referencing previous works
- Providing general information
- Identifying the methodological approach
- Describing the setting
- Introducing the subjects/participants
- Rationalizing pre-experiment decisions

2) Describing the Study

- Acquiring/describing data
- Identifying variables
- Describing experimental/study procedures
- Describing tools, instruments, materials/equipment
- Rationalizing experiment decisions
- Reporting incrementals

3) Analyzing the Data

- Preparing the data
- Describing the data analysis
- Establishing credibility

Tips for Writing Methods Sections

- Tense: **Past**
- Length: **It depends**
- Number of sources: **It depends on your methods**

This will likely be the easiest section to write 😊

Activity 2: Methods Structure

- Research teams: choose an article assigned to you for reading
- Look through the Methods section and outline the structure by headings and subheadings
 - Identify and discuss the content inside...does it meet your expectations? Why?
 - Identify the sections: **Study Methods**, **Describing the Study**, & **Analyzing the Data**
- Write your outline on the whiteboard for comparison with the other teams

- I. Main Header
 - a. Sub-header A
 - b. Sub-header B
 - Sub-header C

Upcoming Milestones

1) Literature Review

- Consult with your PI/grad student(s) on their expectations
 - i.e., length, content, organization, etc.
- Use today's info as a strong guide for your content and organization

2) Methods

Upcoming

Week 5

- Results
- Discussion/Conclusion

Week 6

- Research Posters