



# LITERATURE REVIEW vs. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# Lit Reviews & Annotated Bibliographies

- Summarize useful information on a topic in one place
- Explore existing research
- Identify gaps in research
- Analyze methods and biases in past research
- Provide background to your own work or future research

# Literature Review: Survey

- Summarizes and synthesizes research on a given topic
- Often centres around a specific research question or theme
- Organized by theme, not by article (discusses multiple articles per paragraph/section)



# Literature Review: Critical Article Review

- Organized by article, not by theme
- Covers each article individually
- In-depth analysis of each article's methods
- Discusses gaps/future research opportunities





# Annotated Bibliography

- Typically precedes a larger assignment
- Tends to discuss value/usefulness of given sources to a future project
- Organized by article, not by theme
- Summary of each article, often followed by discussion of its usefulness



# WHICH ONE AM I SUPPOSED TO WRITE???

**Lit Review:  
Survey**

**Lit Review:  
Critical**

**Annotated  
Bibliography**

- These terms are sometimes used interchangeably. Confusing, right?
- Check your assignment instructions, and if you're still not sure, clarify with your instructor.

# LITERATURE REVIEW: SURVEY STEP-BY-STEP

**1.**  
**Identify  
& Focus**

**2.**  
**Research  
& Analyze**

**3.**  
**Organize  
& Write**

**STEP ONE:**  
**IDENTIFY**  
**& FOCUS**





# FOCUS IN ON A TOPIC & RESEARCH QUESTION

For example, a broad topic might be 'Women's involvement in radio'

A specific research question might be  
'What factors influence women's involvement in campus-community radio?'

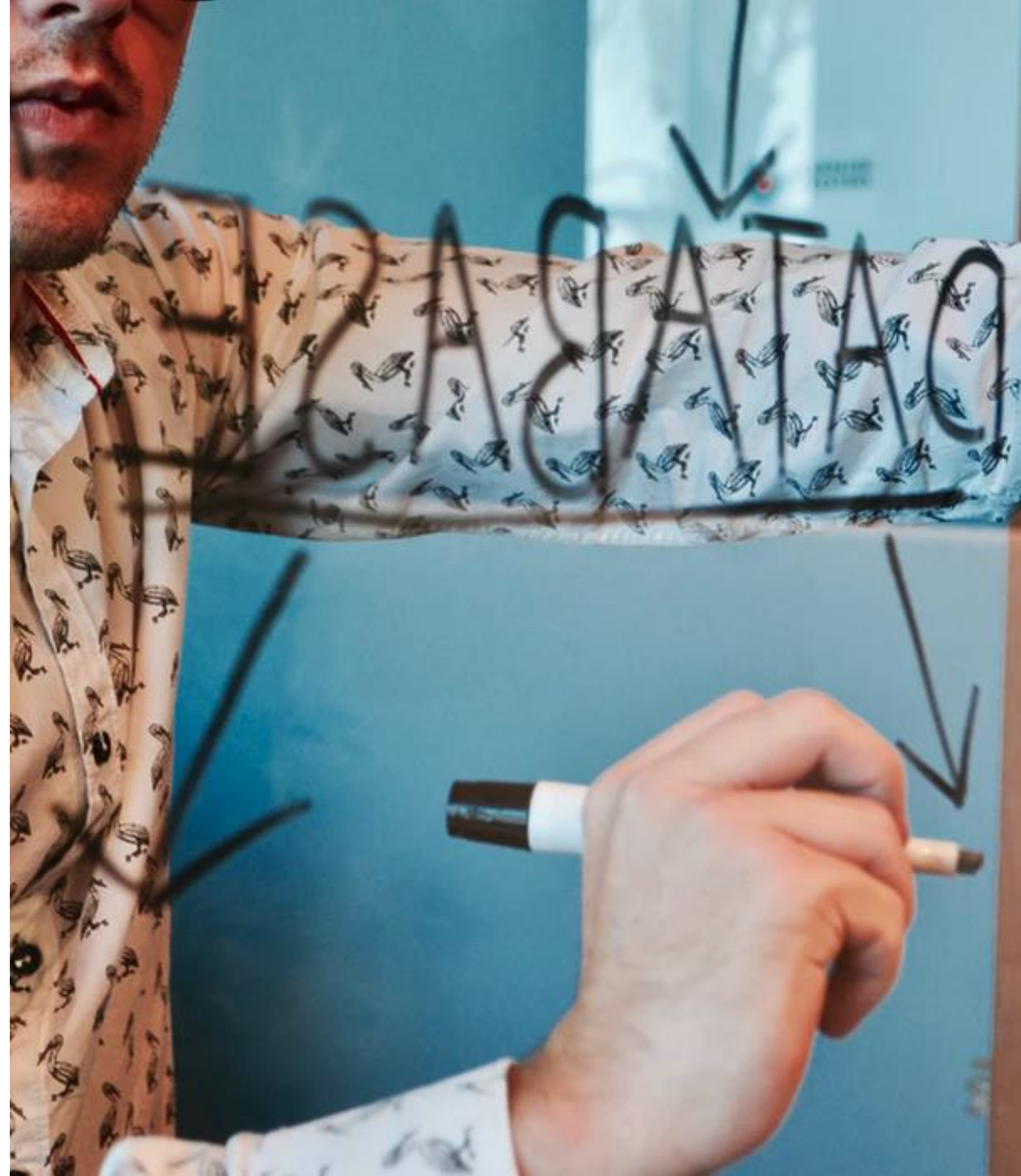




PRO TIP:  
**LET YOUR  
RESEARCH  
GUIDE  
YOU!**



# STEP TWO: RESEARCH & ANALYZE





# WHERE TO START?

- **Leddy Library journals database**
- **Consult with the librarian for your discipline at Leddy**
- **Google Scholar**
- **Bibliography mining**
- **Wikipedia and Google for general information or bibliography mining (*not as a final source*)**



# READ & ANALYZE

- What are the methodologies used?
- Are there any assumptions or biases in the articles?
- Are there any theories or results that conflict with one another?
- Do some theories or ideas appear in the research more frequently than others?





**PRO TIP:**  
**TRY A**  
**DOUBLE-**  
**SIDED**  
**JOURNAL**



# DOUBLE-SIDED JOURNAL

## ONE SIDE SUMMARIZES RESOURCE MATERIAL

- What are the main ideas?
- What perspective does the author take?
- What types of evidence does the author use?

## ONE SIDE RECORDS YOUR RESPONSE TO IT

- *Do you agree or disagree?*
- *How does it differ from your perspective?*
  - *Are there any discrepancies in the evidence?*

# DOUBLE-SIDED JOURNAL

## “WOMEN TAKE TO THE AIRWAVES” - Garofoli

- Radio (spec. talk radio) problematically dominated by men
- Lack of women on air is political
- Stats re: numbers of women on air. Qualitative data re: democratization

## ONE SIDE RECORDS YOUR RESPONSE TO IT

- *Def. a problem, evident in mainstream and indie radio*
- *Hadn't considered right wing slant of most talk radio*
  - *Speculates about the democratizing potential without many examples*

# KEEP TRACK!

- Record important research as you go
- Track links, citation information, important quotes, page numbers
- Use colour coding to help you organize the research by theme





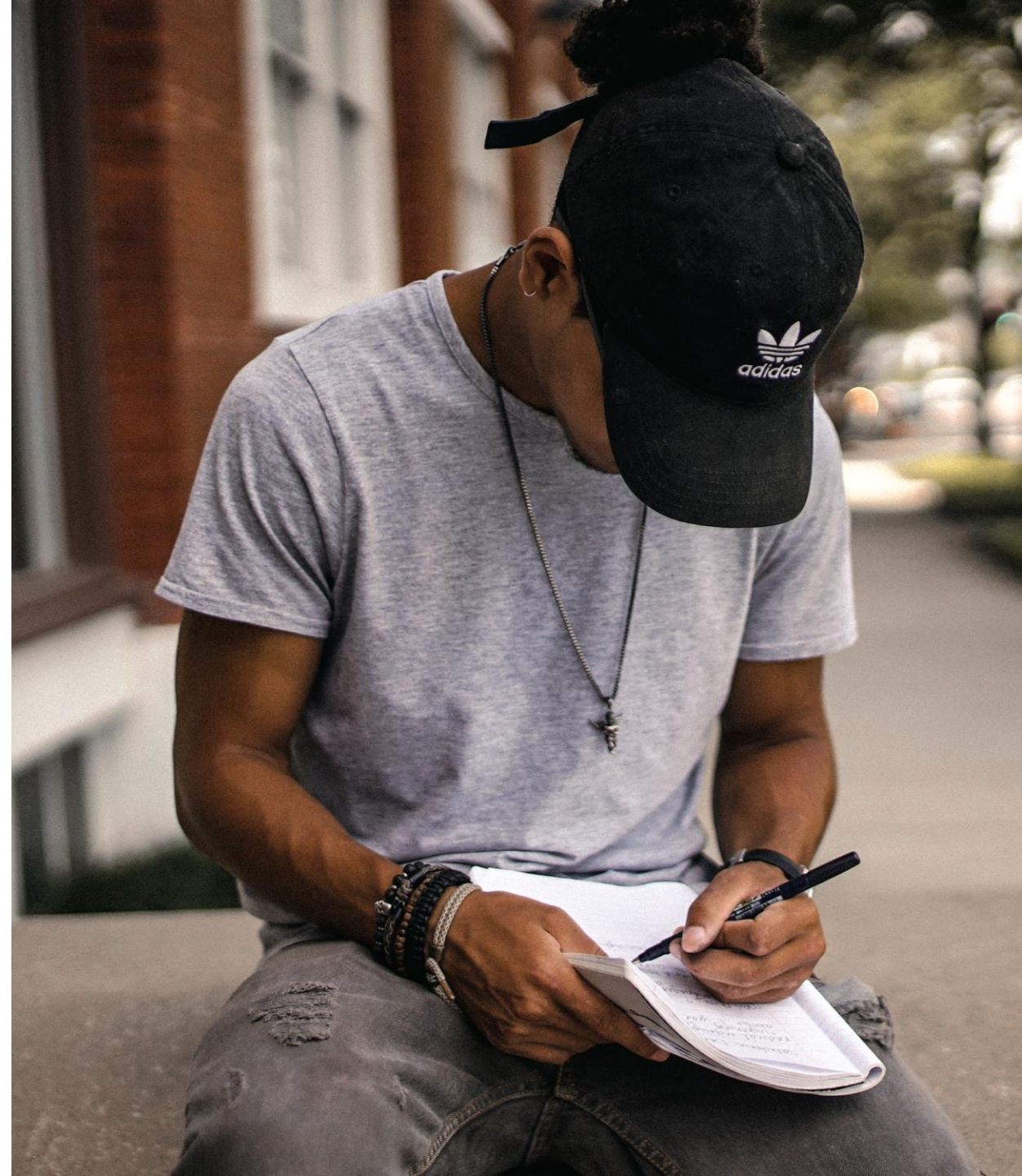
**STEP THREE:**  
**ORGANIZE**  
**& WRITE**





# ORGANIZE PAPERS BY COMMONALITY

- Which papers have common methods?
- Which papers have common results?
- Which papers have common trends?
- What is different about their methods/results/findings?



# OUTLINE YOUR LIT REVIEW

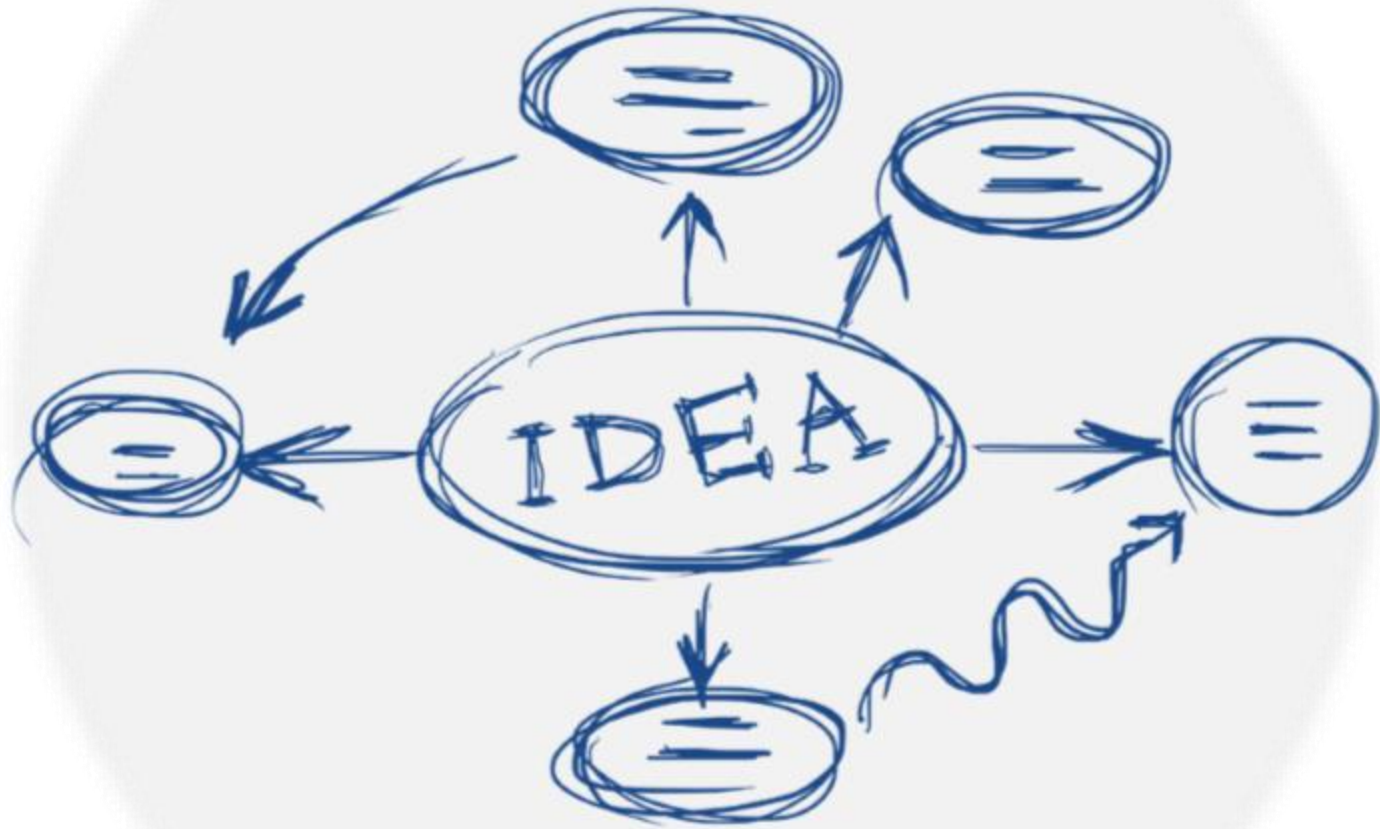
- Organize by topic, not by resource
- Don't just list articles; let the articles talk to each other
- Use subject headings if it helps. For example
  - Presence of women in radio
  - Reported barriers
    - Elitist environment
    - Family commitments
    - Safety
    - Lack of confidence





# OUTLINE YOUR LIT REVIEW

- What gap are you going to fill?
- Why is this important?
- Lit review provides background the reader needs to see why *your* research is worthwhile



# PRO TIP: CREATE A SKELETON OUTLINE

INTRO - problem?  
(lack of women  
in radio)  
- context?  
(focus on CSAM)  
- Research Q?  
(factors re: involvement)

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## LIT REVIEW

Background / Importance  
- radio as democratizing  
- imp. of equitable airtime  
- women's voices

Stats! - Prove problem

Barriers - cited in studies  
- cited in pop culture

GAP? - No research re: CSAM  
- WRC as case study

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CONCLUSION - Overview of  
evidence  
- Re state Research Q  
- Value of study /  
call to action

# INTRODUCTION

- **PROBLEM – lack of women in radio**
  - Context & focus (priorities of campus-community radio)
  - Specific focus – campus-community radio
- **RESEARCH QUESTION – factors influencing women's involvement**





# BODY PARAGRAPHS

- Organize body paragraphs by theme (use subheadings if you need)
- Explore several articles per paragraph
- Include all major themes and controversies in the research



# DISCUSSION and/or CONCLUSION

- Literature reviews often include a 'Discussion' section that
  - Highlights key points, gaps, and conflicts
  - Notes implications for future research/action
- Depending on the assignment, a conclusion may function in a similar way



# BEFORE YOU START WRITING CHECKLIST

**Identify and  
focus in on a  
research  
question**

**Research &  
analyze what  
you've found**

**Organize  
your  
research &  
start writing**



# Critical Article Review vs. Survey

- A critical article review can be different than a standard 'survey' review
- Instead of synthesizing research by topic, it analyzes articles one-by-one, focusing on their research methods



## Research Purpose

- What did the study set out to do/find out?
- Searching for causes/impact/to evaluate or explore something?

## Method

- Qualitative? What kind? Narrative inquiry? Case study?
- Quantitative? What kind? Survey? Meta-analysis? Correlation?
- Mixed methods? Computer simulations?
- Is the method appropriate to the purpose?

## Data Collection

- Interviews? Focus groups? Surveys?
- Field observations? Experiments? Computer simulations?
- Is there a control group?



## Sample

- Is it representative? Large enough?
- Who are the participants? Demographics? What was the response rate?
- How were they recruited/selected?

## Data Analysis

- How is the data coded/analyzed? What measures are used?
- Are the measures appropriate? Consider reliability and validity
- What theory is used to analyze data?

## Conclusions

- Are the conclusions rooted in evidence?
- Check for logical fallacies, confirmation bias
- Do they note limitations?
- Do conclusions agree/conflict with other research?

# LINK TO OTHER STUDIES

- **How does it relate to other studies in the review?**
  - Does it challenge/back up their findings?
  - Does it use similar/different methods/theories?
- **Follow this process for each article**



# ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES: GET STARTED!

**Identify a  
topic**

**Research  
that topic**

**Review your  
research &  
select works  
to cover**

# BEGIN EACH SECTION WITH BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Waite, L. J., Goldschneider, F. K., & Witsberger, C. (1986). Nonfamily living and the erosion of traditional family orientations among young adults. *American Sociological Review*, 51, 541-554.  
<http://doi.org/00.000.000>

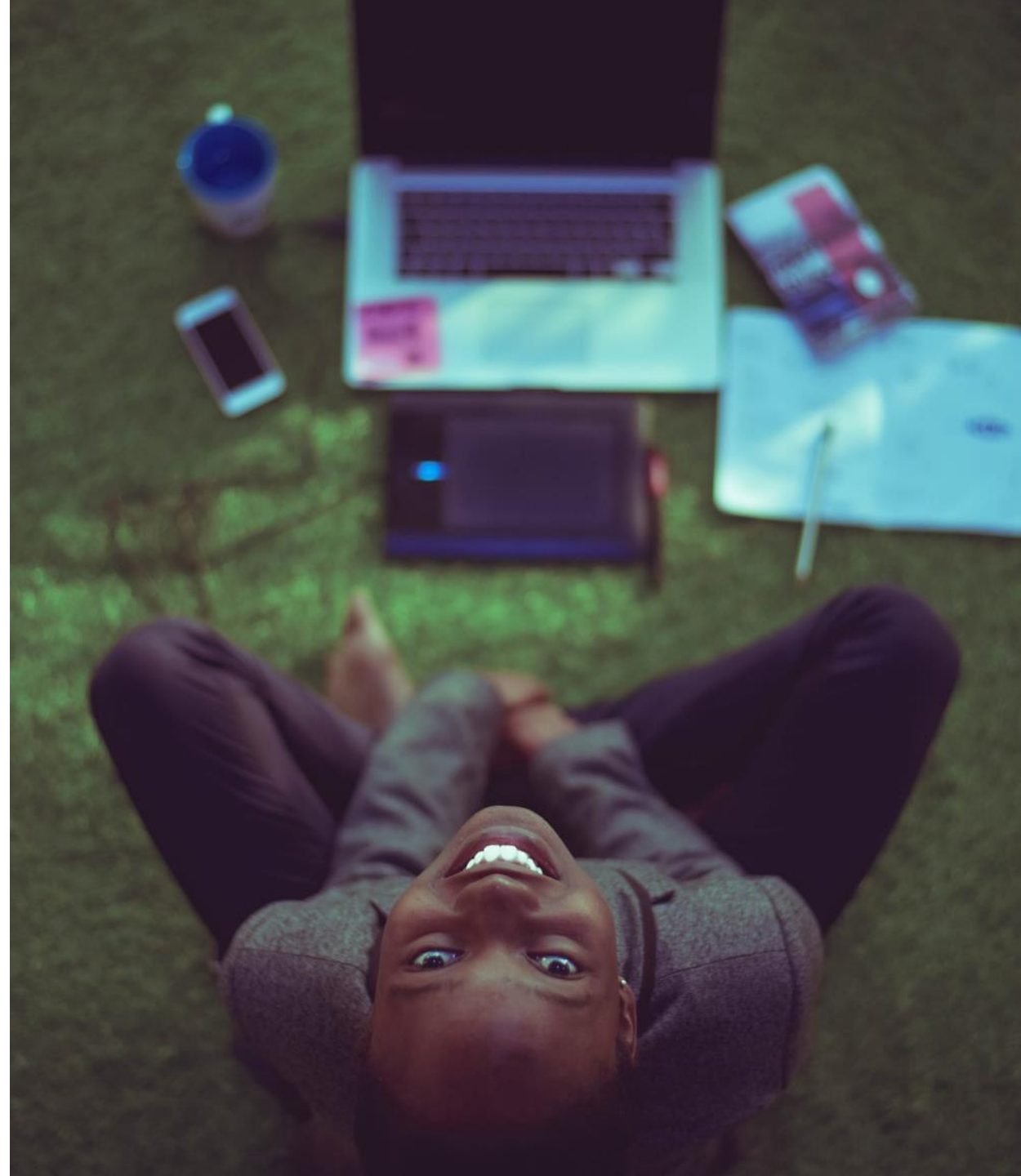




# ANNOTATE!

- Summary of work (purpose, methods, theory, conclusions)\*
- Note author biases, authority on subject, intended audience, any novel information, links to other studies in bibliography\*
- Note how it will inform your research

\*you do not need to address all of these depending on the work/discipline/what is relevant



## Literature Review: Survey

- Reads like an essay
- Allows articles to 'talk to one another'
- Organized by theme

## Literature Review: Critical

- Organized by article
- In-depth look at research methods

## Annotated bibliography

- Organized by article
- Bibliographic entry + summary + short commentary
- Often precedes future projects

## All

- Collect research on a topic in one place
- Can inform future research
- Identify gaps/biases

# QUESTIONS?

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