

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

February 14, 2023

Today's schedule

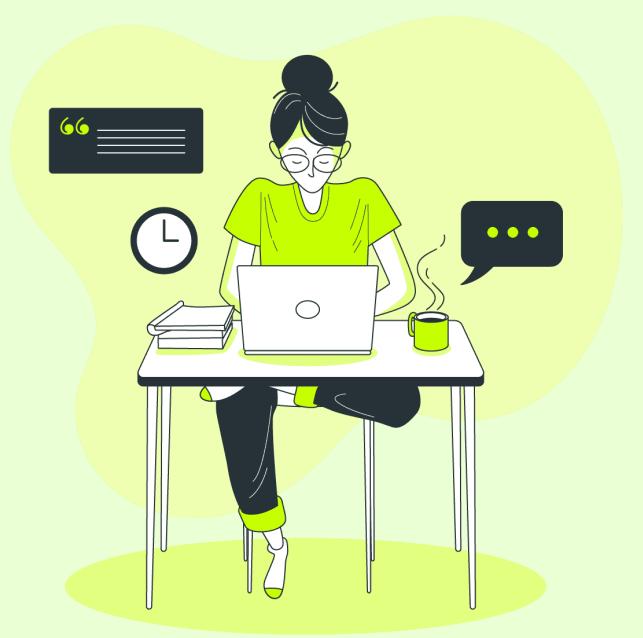
- What is a literature review?
- Lit reviews vs. Academic essays
- Author centric vs. concept centric
- Filling in the gaps!
- Break for 10 minutes.
- Lab activity.

Literature Review

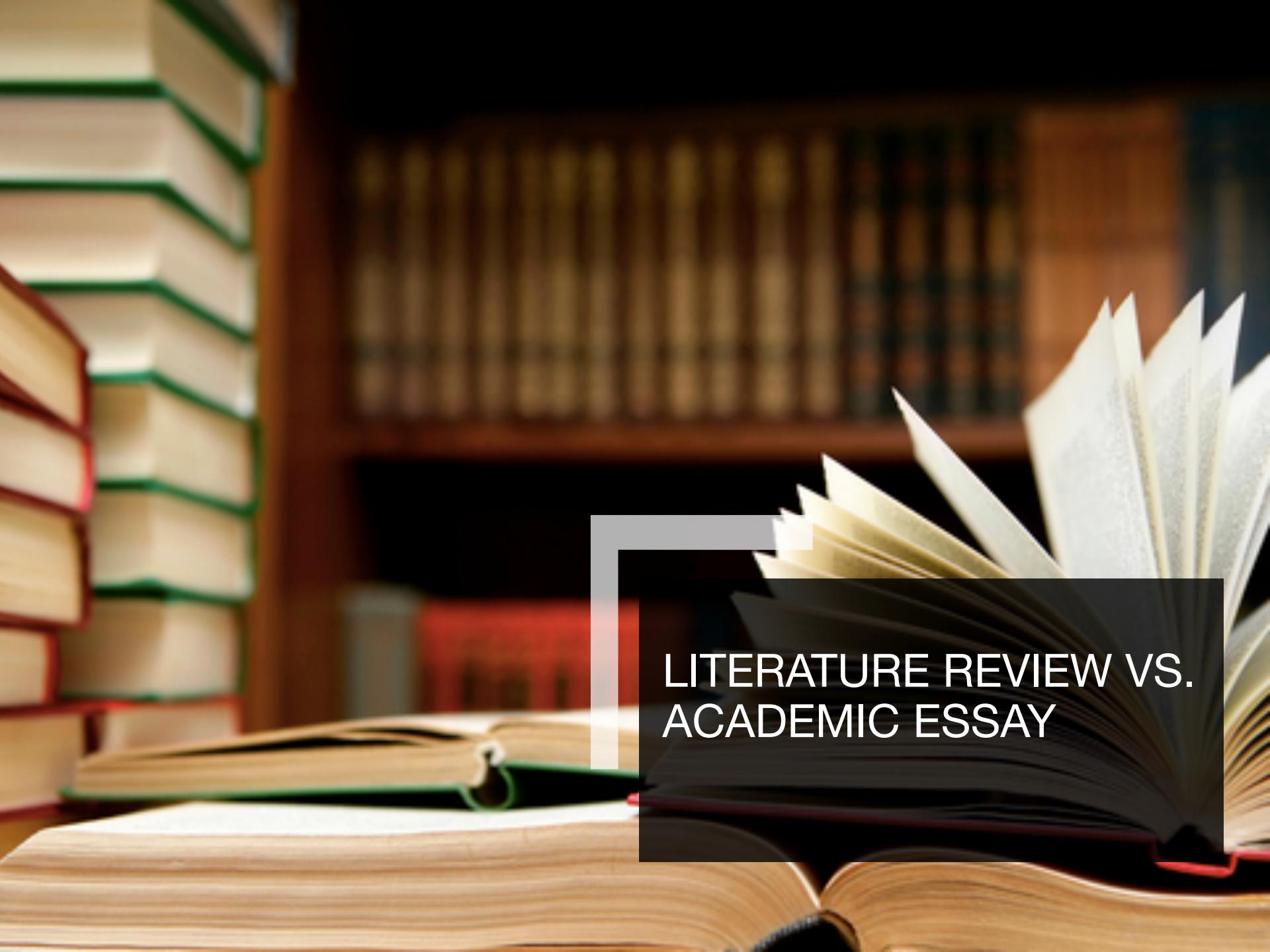
- Purpose: offer an overview of significant scholarship on a topic
 - *Facilitates theory development*
 - *Closes areas where a plethora of research exists*
 - *Uncovers areas where research is needed*



Literature Review



- Once you identify a research topic, you need to find past studies that could help you:
 - establish **what is already known** in a certain research field
 - point to **gaps** in the existing literature
 - inform the selection of a particular **proposition or hypothesis**.

The background features a stack of books on the left and a row of books on a shelf in the middle ground. In the foreground, an open book is visible, showing its pages. A dark rectangular overlay with white text is positioned in the lower right quadrant.

LITERATURE REVIEW VS. ACADEMIC ESSAY

Literature Review vs. Academi c Essay

Academic essay aims to persuade readers of an idea and develop an argument based on evidence.

Literature review is written as a **foundation for research**.

- *Synthesize and critically evaluate the ideas and arguments of others to advise the reader on the most pertinent and relevant for empirical investigation*

Literature Review

Mature
topic

Emerginc
g issues

Mature Topic	Emerging Issue
An accumulated body of knowledge exists that needs analysis and synthesis.	Authors could tackle an emerging issue that would benefit from exposure to potential theoretical foundations.
Researchers conduct a thorough literature review and then propose a conceptual model that synthesizes and extends existing research.	The author's contribution would arise from the fresh theoretical foundations proposed in developing a conceptual model.

Literature Review



Literature Review

- CONCEPT-CENTRIC!!!
- Not confined to one research methodology, one set of journals, or one geographic region

LITERATURE REVIEW AS CONCEPT-CENTRIC

Concepts, **not authors**, determine the
organizing framework of a review

Concept-Centric vs. Author-Centric

Most students are used to an author-centric approach.

Concept-Centric	Author-centric
Concept X... [author A, author B]	Author A... concept X, concept Y...
Concept Y... [author A, author C, author M, author Z...]	Author B... concept M, concept Z

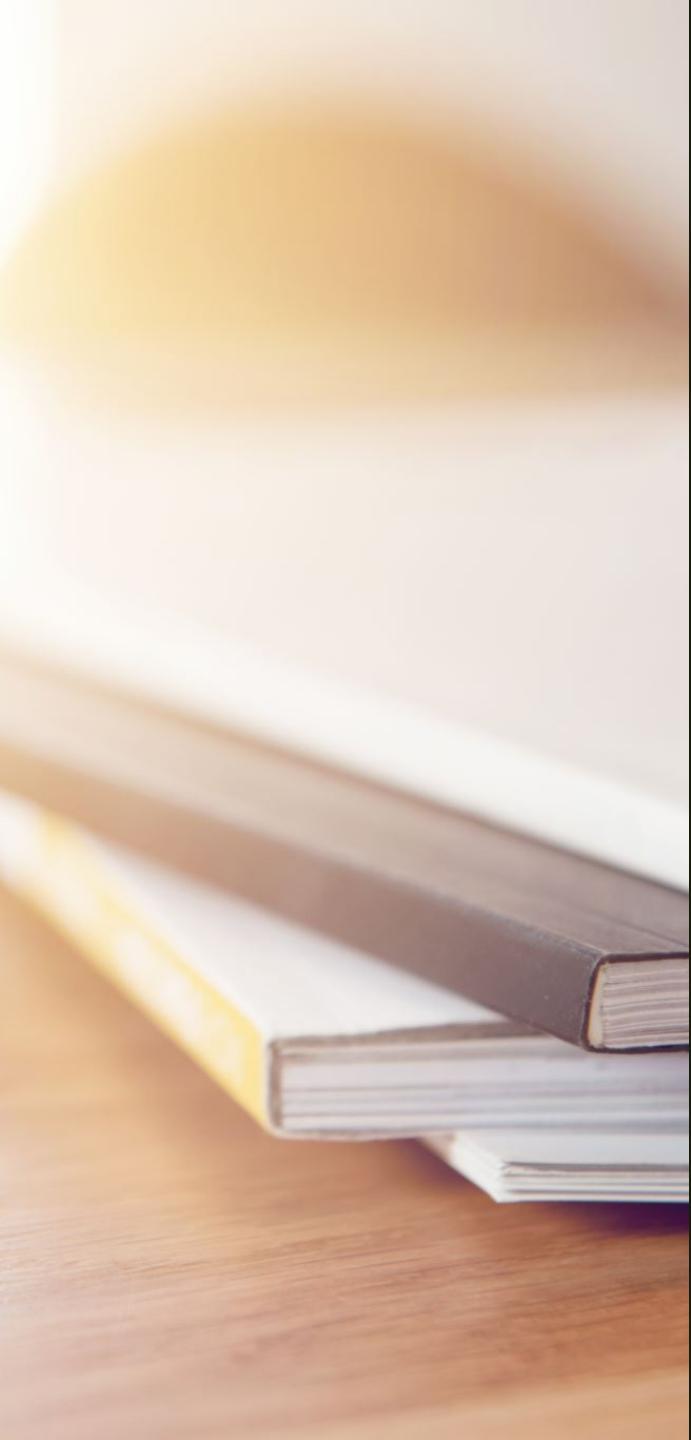
From Author-Centric to Concept-Centric

Articles	Concepts				
	A	B	C	D
1		x	x		x
2	x	x			
3		x	x	x	x
4	x		x		x
5	x	x	x		

Literature Review

- A review succeeds when it helps other scholars to make sense of the accumulated knowledge on a topic.
 - *LOGICALLY STRUCTURED AROUND THE TOPIC'S CENTRAL IDEAS*



A photograph showing a stack of books on a light-colored wooden surface. The spines of the books are visible, showing various colors like yellow, white, and brown. A vertical black bar runs along the right edge of the slide.

Literature Review

- What should you do about the studies that you read when writing a review?
 - *SYNTHESIZE*
 - *CRITICALLY EVALUATE*
 - *IDENTIFY KNOWLEDGE GAP/S*

- Do not fall into the trap of being overly critical:
 - “*...another indicator of amateurism was an overly negative approach to the previous literature... Previous work is always vulnerable. Criticizing is easy, and of little value; it is more important to explain **how research builds upon previous findings rather than to claim previous research is inadequate and incompetent.***” (Daft 1985:198)

Literature Review

Literature Review

- KNOWLEDGE GAPS
 - *Examine past research to make a chart for future research*
 - *Pinpoint questions for further inquiry*

Literature Review as Identifying Knowledge Gaps

- Saying that “it hasn’t been done before” on its own is not enough.
 - *Theoretical and empirical contribution* (“*WHAT’S NEW?*”)
 - *Impact* (“*SO WHAT?*”)
 - *Logic* (“*WHY SO?*”)

Literature review

- Organize your search of the literature around the key concepts you want to study.
 - *Are couples who met through online matchmaking more likely to get married than those who met through offline channels?*
 - Concepts?

Literature review

- Try multiple search terms.
 - *You may want to keep a record of what terms you have tried searching and how successful they are producing results.*
 - *“Are couples who met through online matchmaking more likely to get married than those who met through offline channels?”*
 - *You can search for literature by using combinations of the following terms: DATING, ONLINE DATING, MATCHMAKING, MARRIAGE, INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS etc.*



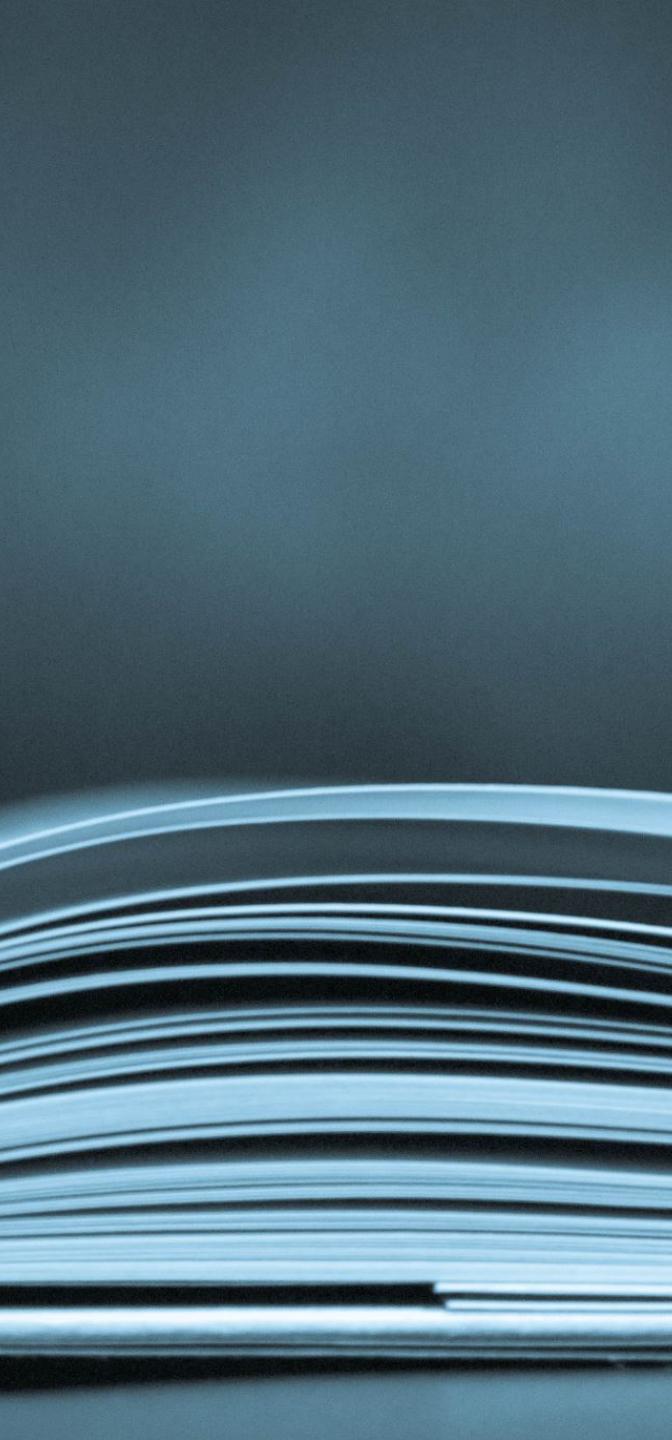
Literature review

- Once you identify a particularly useful book or article, note which publications its author cites.
 - *Core reading*
 - *Related reading*
 - *To read when have time*

Literature review

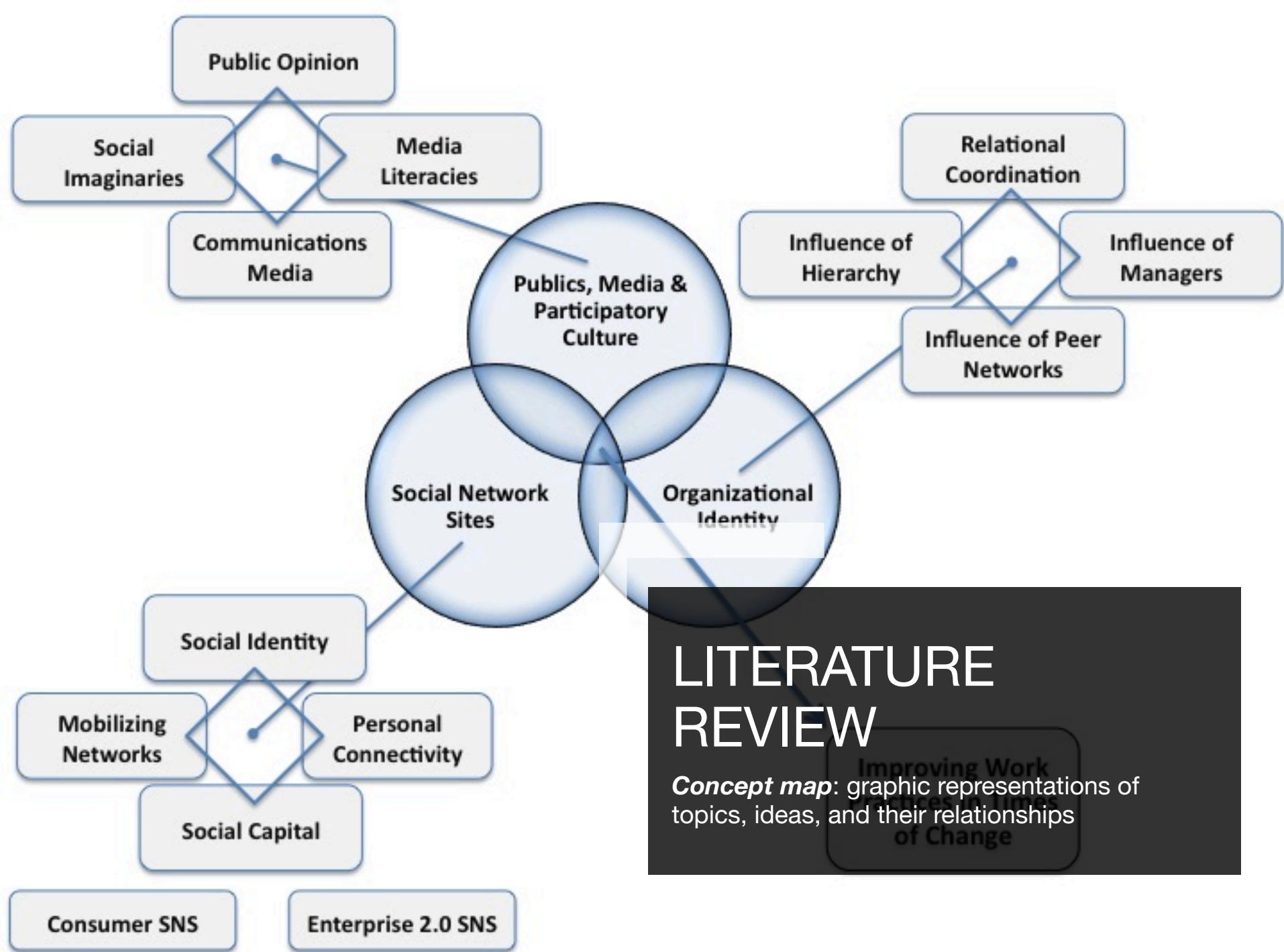
- Journal article:
 - *READ THE ABSTRACT!*
 - *Go to summary and/or conclusions at the end of the article.*
 - *Skim the article, noting the section headings and any tables or graphs.*
 - *If you think it is an important article, read it carefully.*





Literature review

- Book:
 - *Read the opening and the concluding chapters.*
 - *Pay attention to the theory and methods.*



Part I—Summarizing the Literature

Part II: Synthesizing the Literature

Begin by looking at the **last** column of the chart in Part I. Drawing on that column, identify 2-3 concepts that encapsulate the most important insights you gained from reading the five sources that will be part of your literature review. Insert those concepts into the first column on this page, and then note how each concept is addressed by each article. If a particular article does not address one of the themes you are using, that's fine—just put a slash in that table cell.

Themes	Article A	Article B	Article C	Article D	Article E
Concept 1:					
Concept 2:					
Concept 3:					

Considering the collective knowledge you've obtained from reading these articles, what do you still need to learn about this topic?

FROM AUTHOR-CENTRIC
TO CONCEPT-CENTRIC
LITERATURE REVIEW

What unanswered (but potentially answerable) research questions can you come up with from all this?