

Literature Review

Literature

- Collection of information or materials on an area or topic
- Includes books and journal articles



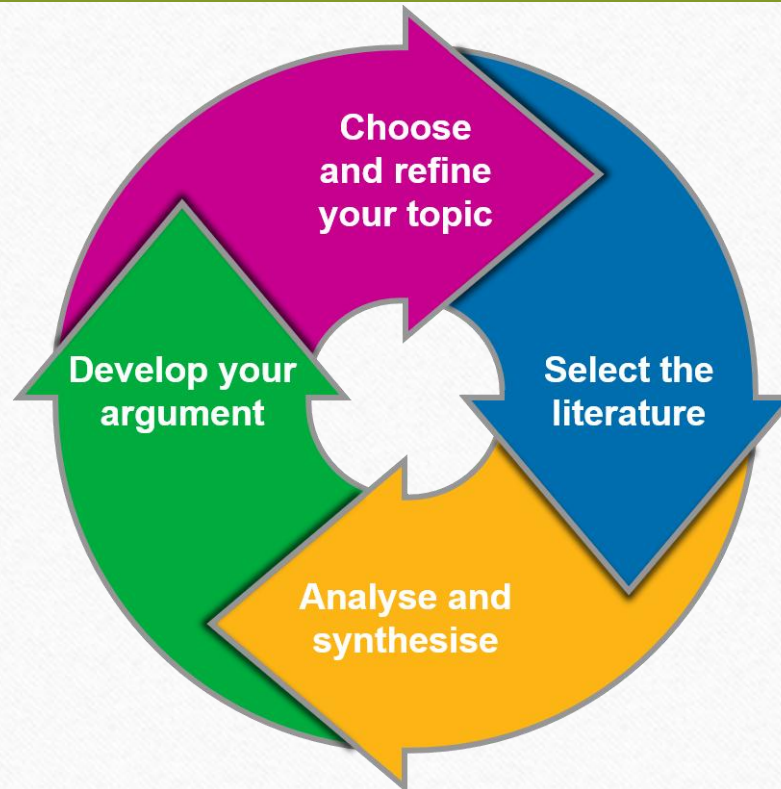
Purpose

- Tell your reader the background of a topic
- How much research has already been done
- How research in the area has changed
- Explain major points or arguments of each source(s)
- Explain research gaps and justify your own research

Types of Literature Reviews

- Stand alone or as part of a research paper or proposal
- Literature reviews in journals and book chapters are usually shorter

The writing process



Choosing your topic

- If you have the option to choose your topic, make sure it is of interest to you
- Find a topic with a clear question that can be answered easily
- Don't be too broad

Choosing your topic

- How does CO₂ contribute to climate change?



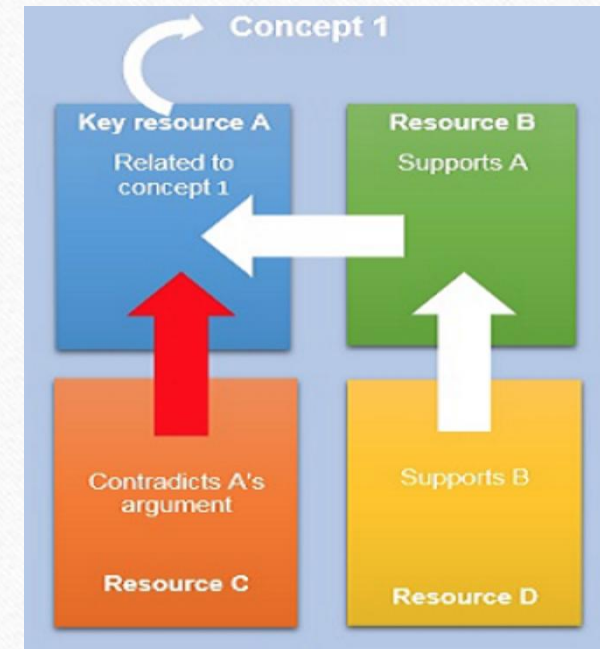
- How will the rising level of CO₂ impact wheat growth and quality?

Select the Literature

- Do not include everything you read
- Literature should be relevant and important to the field
- Background information should be kept more general
- Research or sources closer to your topic should be described in more detail

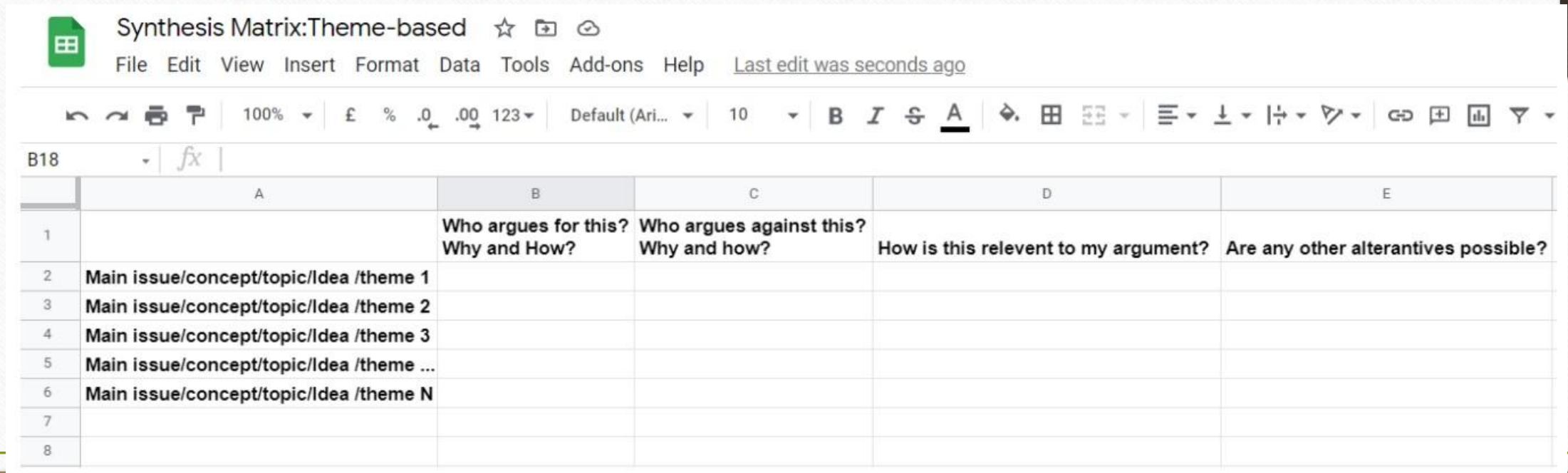
Analyse Literature

- Your sources will take different positions on the topic
- Connect their arguments and identify the main themes between them
- Three main ways:
 1. Synthesize texts on agreement



Analyse Literature

- 2. Literature Matrix

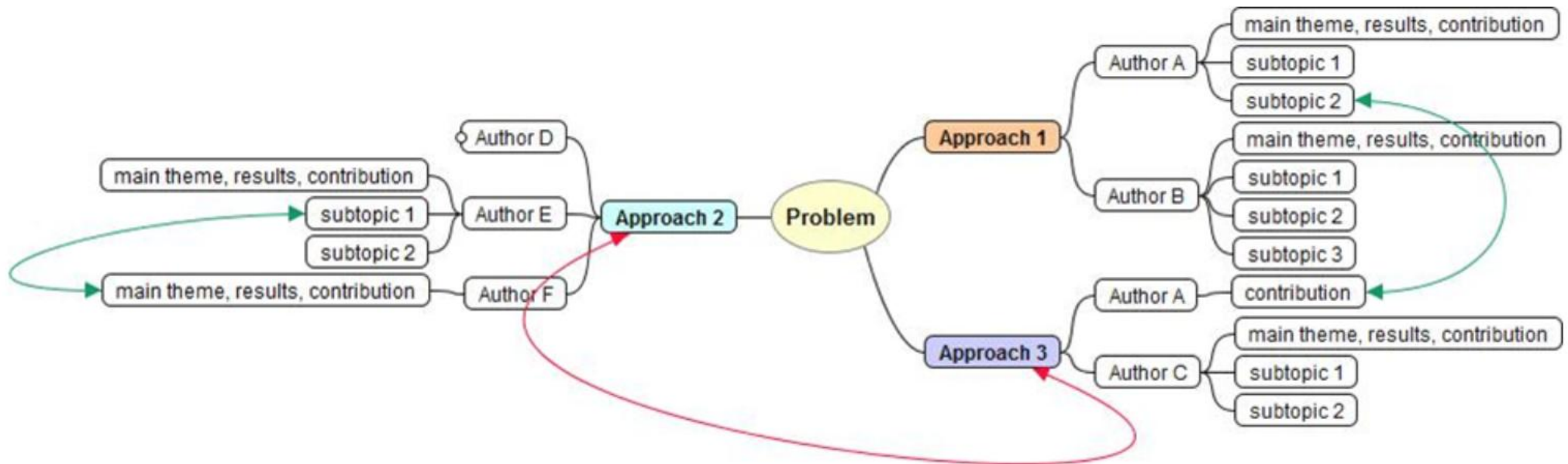


The screenshot shows a Google Sheets spreadsheet titled "Synthesis Matrix:Theme-based". The spreadsheet is a literature matrix template with 5 columns (A-E) and 8 rows (1-8). The header row (row 1) contains the following text: Column A is empty; Column B is "Who argues for this? Why and How?"; Column C is "Who argues against this? Why and how?"; Column D is "How is this relevant to my argument?"; and Column E is "Are any other alternatives possible?". Rows 2-6 contain the text "Main issue/concept/topic/Idea /theme 1" through "Main issue/concept/topic/Idea /theme N" in column A, with empty cells in columns B-E. Rows 7 and 8 are empty.

	A	B	C	D	E
1		Who argues for this? Why and How?	Who argues against this? Why and how?	How is this relevant to my argument?	Are any other alternatives possible?
2	Main issue/concept/topic/Idea /theme 1				
3	Main issue/concept/topic/Idea /theme 2				
4	Main issue/concept/topic/Idea /theme 3				
5	Main issue/concept/topic/Idea /theme ...				
6	Main issue/concept/topic/Idea /theme N				
7					
8					

Analyse Literature

- 3. Mind maps



Tips

- Do not start each paragraph with a different author/article/reference
- Organize this part into sections to present certain themes, trends, or theories
- You don't need every single material on this topic

Literature review includes

- Introduction
 - Why is this important?
 - What are you trying to do?
 - What are you focussing on?

Literature review includes

- Body
 - Summaries/reviews of past sources
 - Be careful to organize your review in a logical way (chronological, thematic, two sides of a problem, etc.)
 - A literature review is **NOT** a list – it should read like a complete paper

Literature review includes

- Citations
 - Everything you talk about must be cited
 - Use the correct citation style
- Conclusions
 - Lead into the rest of your paper
 - What will we do different?
 - What new area will we explore?

Planning

- Consider expectations of your audience – you must make your readers understand the knowledge and ideas on this topic
- While reading:
 - Summarize the main ideas of your sources
 - Comment on the source's usefulness, relevance, methodology, and/or findings
- Avoid active voice if possible
- Avoid first person

Language use

- Reporting verbs:
 - Aims: investigates, examines, looks at
 - Results: shows, suggests, reveals, demonstrates
 - Opinions: states, believes, argues
- Cautious words:
 - Positive: effective, necessary, significant, crucial
 - Negative: questionable, unclear, inconclusive, insignificant

Language use

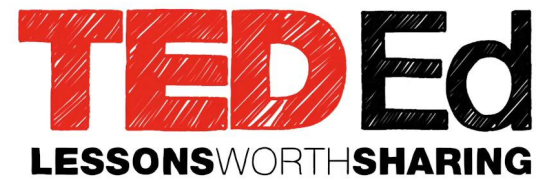
- To sound more confident, use boosters:
 - Clearly, definitely, without a doubt, unquestionably
 - It is certain, There is strong evidence, It is widely agreed
- To sound more cautious, use hedges:
 - Appeared to, seemed, possibly, likely, somewhat, suggests
 - The project is likely to, It may be, There is some evidence

Presentations Set 2

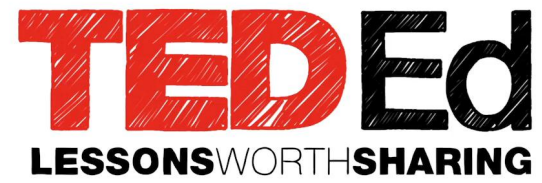
- Choose 1-2 studies and analyse their literature review section (if there is no separate section, use the literature from the introduction)
- For your presentations, start with a summary of the literature review and give your response (be sure to cite properly for secondary sources)
- Response needs to relate to the literature review only, not the general topic
- All papers must be posted TWO DAYS before class**

Listening Practice

Video 1



Video 2



Group Work

Choose one video and write a response