

SUMMARIZING THE LITERATURE

Dr. Garrett Dancik

Plagiarism

- **Plagiarism** is defined as the act of claiming the words or ideas of another person as your own.
- To avoid plagiarism and to properly acknowledge credit, you must cite the following in your text:
 - a description of a contribution from another source
 - a summary of information from a source
 - factual information that is not common knowledge
 - exact wording, which must be quoted
- To help prevent plagiarism, we will use SafeAssign on Blackboard

Literature Review (or Literature Survey)

- The purpose of a **literature review** is to summarize an article in a way that allows you to
 - investigate the topic by forcing you to examine and then describe how each source addresses the problem
 - organize and classify the sources in some reasonable manner for the benefit of the reader.

Literature Review – Why?

- In a research paper (and proposal), a literature review
 - provides background
 - includes related work
 - motivates the current research problem
- A review article is essentially a comprehensive literature review that
 - is focused around a specific topic or question
 - organizes and summarizes previous work, through text, tables, and figures
 - compares and contrasts previous work