

## How to Write a Problem Statement

### Step #1:

#### Do a True Review of the "Lit"

- Until you do the background work, your efforts are in vain.
- If you rush to write your chapter 1 before doing the needed "true" review of the literature, you are wasting about 100 hours worth of time.



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### Step #1:

#### Do a True Review of the "Lit"

- You must digest about 100 works (books, articles, etc.) and have written down around 400 quotes and organized them into a synthesis matrix.
- You will need this information to answer the questions we discuss in this video. So, look ahead here, but definitely do that "true" lit review.



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### Step #2:

#### Understand Ch 1 Structure

- You can make some big guesses about what chapter 1 involves by looking at others' writings.
- You need to understand the nuances of each section such that you see what they are doing.



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### Step #2:

#### Understand Ch 1 Structure

- **Background** section tells us about a poignant situation within the world at large. It tells us about that world, About that situation. Tells us why we should care through logic. It's leading us logically from the general, to the more specific "problem."
- **Problem Statement** section tells us about the actual problem itself, what we know about it, what we don't know, and what researchers want us to know.
- **Purpose Statement** provides a specific study that addresses a super-narrow sliver (or part) of the problem.



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### Step #3:

### Write a Problem Statement

- If you know the parts of the problem statement, it's actually quite easy.
- However, it's only easy if you also have done the background work necessary, having actually completed a great review of the literature.



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### Step #3:

### Write a Problem Statement

#### What We Know

"The problem is..."

What do we know about the problem?

#### What We Don't Know

What don't we know about the problem?

#### What They Want Us to Know

What do researchers want us to find out?



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### Step #3:

### Write a Problem Statement



- Each paragraph should start with a logical statement, telling us what the paragraph is about:
  - "Numerous researchers have studies transformational leadership in Fortune 500 companies (3 x citations).
- Each citation should be MULTIPLE citations, showing MULTIPLE authors. Showcase your synthesis.
- It all needs to narrow down so when someone reads your purpose statement, they say "OH! Of course we should research this!"