

# Research Methodology

(ENG-405)

## Long Questions

1. What are the sources of topic selection? or problem identification?

The most important and primary stage of research process is the selection of topic or the identification of problem.

### Topic Selection:

Topic selection or problem identification is the most basic & fundamental skill. Following are some of the steps that can be helpful in the topic selection for the students doing research.

- Brainstorm research topics
- Select a topic
- Get super specific
- Define your topic as a question
- Create an outline

## Brainstorming:

The first and probably the easiest step is to have a brainstorming session to see what topic is best for you. It's best to find something that interests you. Make a list of possible choices and begin the selection process.

## Select a topic:

The next step is selecting a topic that might sound obvious. A common mistake students can make, is getting too specific at the early stages. The objective of starting off with a finalized idea is to save time. But the time you will spend at this stage will help you in the rest of the process. Start off by picking a very broad subject.

## Get super specific:

Once you have a broad subject

the next step is to get super specific. The idea is to get your broad idea and then extract a particular element of that subject.

### Defining your topic as a question:

After specifying the topic, its time to define it as a question that will help in the context of research paper. This will actually help in explaining what the research is all about.

### Create an outline:

At this stage, you have to create an outline of what you want your paper to say.

Write a two-sentence answer to your defined topic question and you are ready to begin.

the research. As, the most crucial part of your research, that is, topic selection or problem identification has been done.

# Sources for Topic Selection or Problem Identification:

Topic selection or problem identification is the primary step in research. Following are some sources that can prove to be helpful in choosing the right topic for the process of research.

- Instructor / Teacher
- Course readings
- Class notes
- Wikipedia
- Google

All the above mentioned sources are considered as the primary sources that can contribute a lot in getting ideas for broad topics. Students can search on Wikipedia or google, can consult the course readings and class notes and finally can ask their teachers regarding the

confirmation of the topics the students are interested in.

A research guide for a particular subject created by a subject librarian is great for helping you choose where to begin your research. These online guides will identify encyclopedias, books, databases, and other materials to help you get started with research.

Library sources like subject-specific encyclopedias can help you because they provide great overviews and introductions to the topics.

### Conclusion:

All the above sources can be helpful in identifying the problem and selecting a topic for the research.

## Question : 02

What do you know about the synthesis and analysis in literature review? Also explain the significance of literature review.

### Literature review:

A literature review can be defined as a survey of scholarly sources on a topic. It provides an overview of current knowledge, allowing you to identify relevant theories, methods and gaps in the existing research.

It can also be defined as;

"A survey of scholarly sources (such as books, journals, articles and thesis) related to a specific topic or a specific research question."

It is often written as a part of thesis or research paper in order to make your work relative

to existing knowledge.

## Synthesis & Analysis in literature review:

In literature review, synthesis and analysis are two different but inter-related terms. A description of both terms is given below:

### Synthesis:

Synthesis can be defined as the combination of ideas to form a theory, system, larger idea, point or outcome. It is used to show common things or patterns in the research.

### Analysis:

Analysis can be defined as a detailed examination of ideas, elements or the structure of research. It can be a basis for discussion and then the interpretation of ideas presented in the research especially in literature review section.

## Explanation:

Synthesis and analysis collectively perform the function of combining and examining ideas to show how the patterns and elements fit together. They develop an evaluation of the idea by presenting several different viewpoints or ideas.

## Synthesis Matrix:

Synthesis matrix is an excellent tool used to organize sources by theme and to be able to see the similarities and differences as well as any important pattern in the methodology and recommendations for future research.

Using a synthesis matrix not only helps in synthesizing and analyzing but it can also help in finding a researchable problem or gaps in research or in methodology.

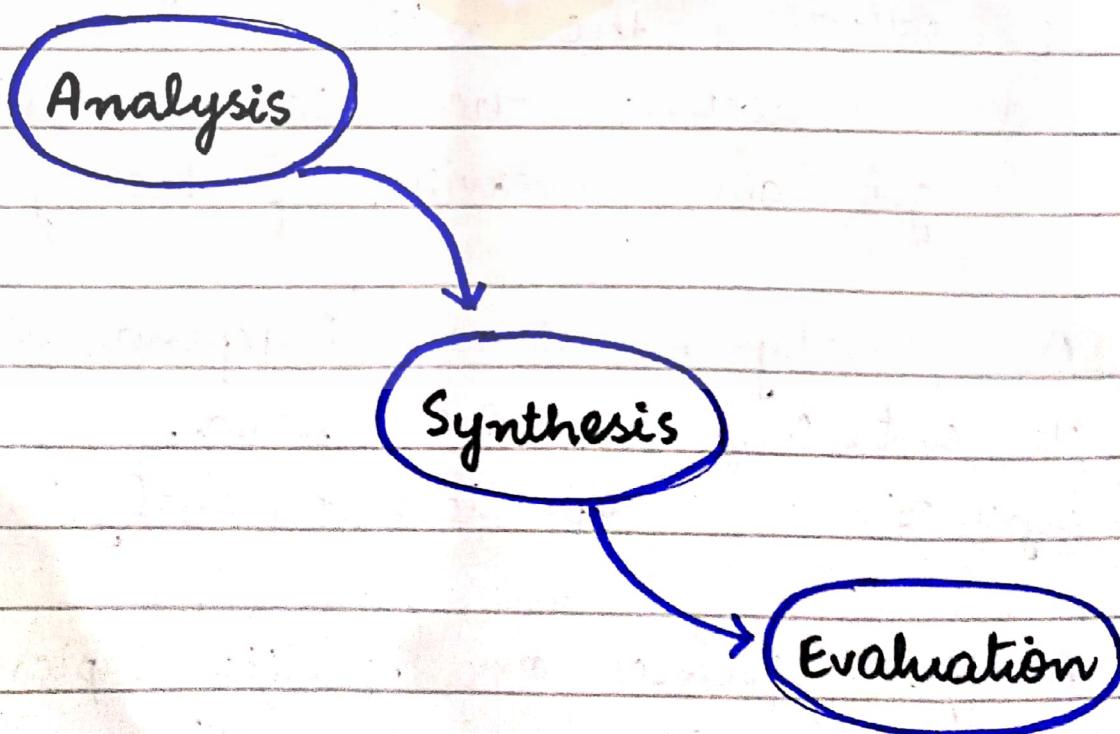
## Main differences between Analysis and Synthesis:

In literature review, the two terms synthesis and analysis can be described and compared in the following way:

- The analysis is a micro approach and a synthesis is a macro approach.
- The method of analyzing is the division of an intricate concept into micro sections to have more knowledge of it, whereas, the method of synthesizing is of collecting the micro-sections and connecting them together to get an overview of theory.
- An analysis is an independent element. On the other hand, synthesis is dependent on analysis.
- Analysis focuses on specific topics while synthesis focuses on entire concepts.

## Conclusion:

Both the methods have equal importance in the research process especially in literature review. The analysis segregates the points and studies them individually. It is a micro approach. On the other hand, synthesis involves the overall overview of research topic for both understanding and experimenting. It is a vast process than analysis. It has a macro approach.



## Question : 03

What is the difference between  
MLA and APA?

MLA (Modern Language Association) and APA (American Psychological Association) are the two different formats used in research works.

Both of the formats have a different layout and style of writing and mentioning citations, in-text citations, dates etc.

### **MLA:**

MLA stands for Modern Language Association. It is a style of formatting research papers that is used mostly in the arts and humanities. The MLA aims to strengthen the study and teaching of language and literature.

### **APA:**

APA stands for American Psychological Association. This is

a standard format used in the social sciences; It is a consistent way for writers to document sources and to avoid plagiarism.

APA style provides a foundation for effective scholarly communication because it helps writer in presenting their ideas in a clear and precise way.

### Differences between MLA and APA:-

Differences	MLA	APA
Reference page	In MLA, this page is labelled as "Works Cited".	In APA, this page is labelled as "References."
Order of entries on reference pg.	References are arranged in the alphabetical order by author's name first then by title.	References are first arranged in alphabetical order by author's names, then chronologically (oldest first).

Differences	MLA	APA
Multiple works by same author	Work is listed from newest to the oldest, but author's name is given in only first entry.	list the works chronologically but include the author's name in each entry.
Article titles	Titles are written in quotation marks with the major words capitalized.	Only first word of title is capitalized; no quotation marks are used.
In-text citation	Write authors' names, then page number of the source being referenced. For example: <b>Smith, 25</b>	Write authors' names, then year that the source was published For example: <b>Smith, 2019, p. 25</b>

## Question: 04

what is the difference between citation (reference) and in-text citation?

In the process of research, a researcher has to consult a variety of sources to make a good and effective literature review and a complete research paper. These sources are mentioned in between the research paper as well as at the end of the research paper in the references page. Both ways of writing and mentioning the sources are a little bit different from each other. A description of both the terms is given in the following:

### Citation (References):

This is a list of sources that a researcher has cited. The references come at the end of the research paper. Every source that is listed

In references must be present in the body of research report. While providing references, the author actually tells his readers about what kind of sources he has used in his research document.

Alongwith that it also helps the readers to identify the difference between the author's words, theories and ideas and those of other authors. Further, it helps the reader to refer to the source for further information in that area, whenever required.

### In-text citation:

In this type of citation, the author cites or refer to the source in the text to represent that the information is derived from an external source and to mention that source in brief. Basically, it is an abbreviated reference which you can find in the main body of the article, telling about the source of a quote

image, video, paraphrase, chart, table etc. Due to this reason, it is called as "In-text citation", which includes a set of parenthesis.().

Simply, it is a short notation, within the intellectual work, at the end of the page, providing full detail of the source, i-e- all the authors and publications which have been cited are to be mentioned in the list of references.

### Differences between references and in-text citation:

Differences	In-text citation	References
Meaning	citation is a way of disclosing within the main body, that the quote, image, chart etc are taken from an outside source.	Reference is a list which contains all the sources which have been cited while writing the article or assignment.

Differences	In-text citation	References
Use	It informs readers about basic source of information.	It informs readers the complete source of information.
Purpose	To indicate the source of material taken.	To support or criticize an argument.
Placement	Presented in the bracket.	Presented at the end of document.
Information	It contains information like publication year and last name of author.	It contains info. like publication date, title of book/journal, author's name, page number.

## Conclusion:

With the help of these two, the author shows acknowledgement to those whose works or ideas have been used in the article.

## Question : 05

what is the difference between transcription and transliteration?

Transcription and transliteration are both processes by which the text is converted from one script to another.

### Transliteration:

Transliteration is a process which involves changing the script used to write words in one language to the script of another; taking the letters or characters from a word and changing them into the equivalent characters in another language.

This process is concerned with the spellings and not the sound. When there is a word you don't want to be changed, explained or interpreted, but only put into the characters of another language, it is transliteration.

This is often the case when it comes to names, addresses and other such material. For example, when you think about Japanese words written in Latin lettering, you are thinking about the transliteration.

## Transcription:

Transcription involves a close observation of data through careful listening or watching. This is an important first step in data analysis. In other terms, it can also be defined as the conversion of characters of one language to the characters of another language in accordance with the pronunciation of the target language. An advantage of transcription is that everybody speaking the target language can also read the converted words of the source language correctly. A disadvantage is, that a transcription

can not often be inverted clearly.

Transcription is vital for the qualitative research because it puts qualitative data and information into a text-based format. It makes data easier to analyze and share. Moreover, it allows researchers to become more and more immersed into the data they collect.

### Difference between Transliteration and transcription:

Transcription	Transliteration
The representation of sound of words in a language using an other alphabet or set of symbols created for that purpose.	The spelling of the words in one language are changed. Ideally, this is a character for character replacement in research.
Transcription is not concerned with the representation of characters it gives an accurate representation of word.	Transliteration is not concerned with representing phonetics of original.