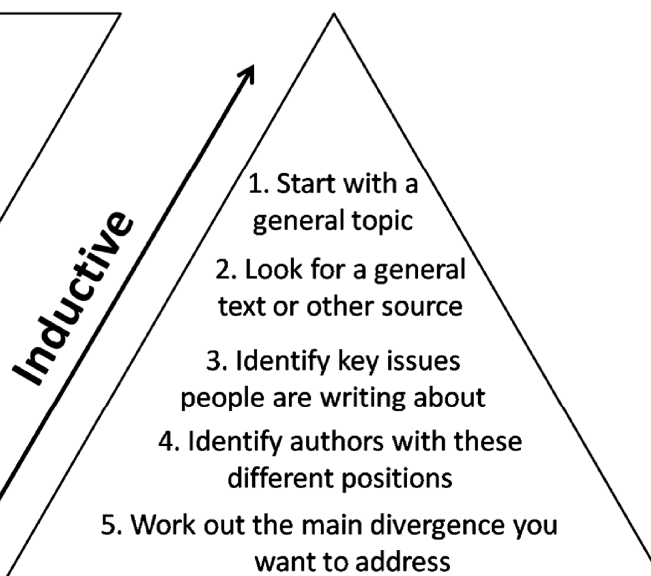
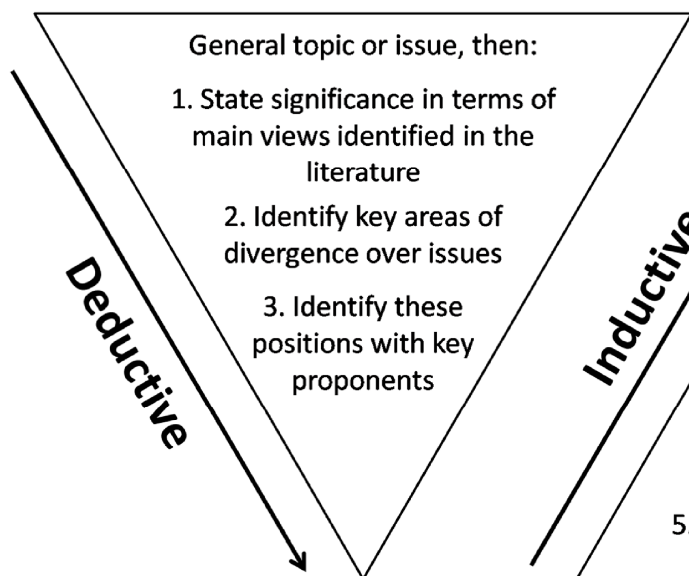


Writing a Literature Review

A literature review is not merely a summary of existing literature. It aims to firstly test the ability of the writer to **construct and source information in a systematic way**. Secondly it aims to test the **skills of critically analyzing** information and identifying gaps in the literature, which require further research.

Writing a literature review can be seen as following the *reverse process* of the reading process. When you read for your literature review, you will research the broad topic and then narrow it down to the specific area of focus (deductive process). For writing a review, you will start from a narrow base and gradually develop a proposition to research (Inductive process).

A: The Reading Process



B: The Literature Review Process

Suggestions for writing a review:

- Start with setting the context (broadly) of your area of focus, ending with an aim, scope and search strategy for your review
- Structure your paragraphs as different ideas following a logical/chronological order
- With each new term, define or describe it before you present the evidence and criticize the research
- AVOID beginning your paragraphs with references – rather start with the topic sentence and gradually provide evidence. Start paragraphs with a more general introductory main idea
- Ensure that you use figures and tables appropriately
- Add a summary paragraph either after each section (if long) or at the end of the review to help build your rationale for your study

Content reference: Pautasso M. 2013. Ten Simple Rules for Writing a Literature Review. *PLoS Computational Biology* 9(7) e1003149.

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