



HOW TO START YOUR

LIT REVIEW

If you need more help with your lit review, please book an appointment at wit.edu/cae, or email cae@wit.edu.



GET SOURCES

Use the library databases at www.library.wit.edu to find scholarly articles on your topic.

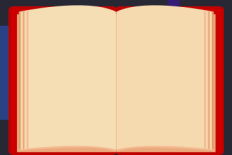
Tip: Many academic journals have literature review articles in them, so you may want to find a lit review on your topic as an example.

1

Read the titles, abstracts, and conclusion sections of all of your sources. Figure out which sources are most useful for your topic. Read any sections you find especially important.

2

SKIM



FIND CONVERSATIONS

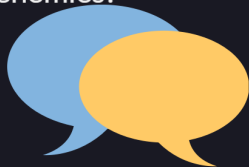
Pay close attention to sources that refer to other sources. Some authors agree with each other on the topic, while others disagree. Which ideas does everyone agree with? Which ideas are new and different? Which authors might be friends with each other? Which ones might be frenemies?

3

Who are the authors that everyone seems to agree with and respect? Are there any authors that everyone seems to cite? On the other hand, are there any authors that seem to be very controversial?

4

IDENTIFY VIPs



SUMMARIZE

Start writing your lit review, thinking of it as a summary of the conversations you found between the articles. Tell your readers who the most important sources are, and tell your readers what conversations are happening these days.

5

Finish by discussing any parts of your topic that the literature leaves out. What research could be done that would add to the subject? Do you have any research ideas that could contribute?

6

CONNECT YOUR IDEA

