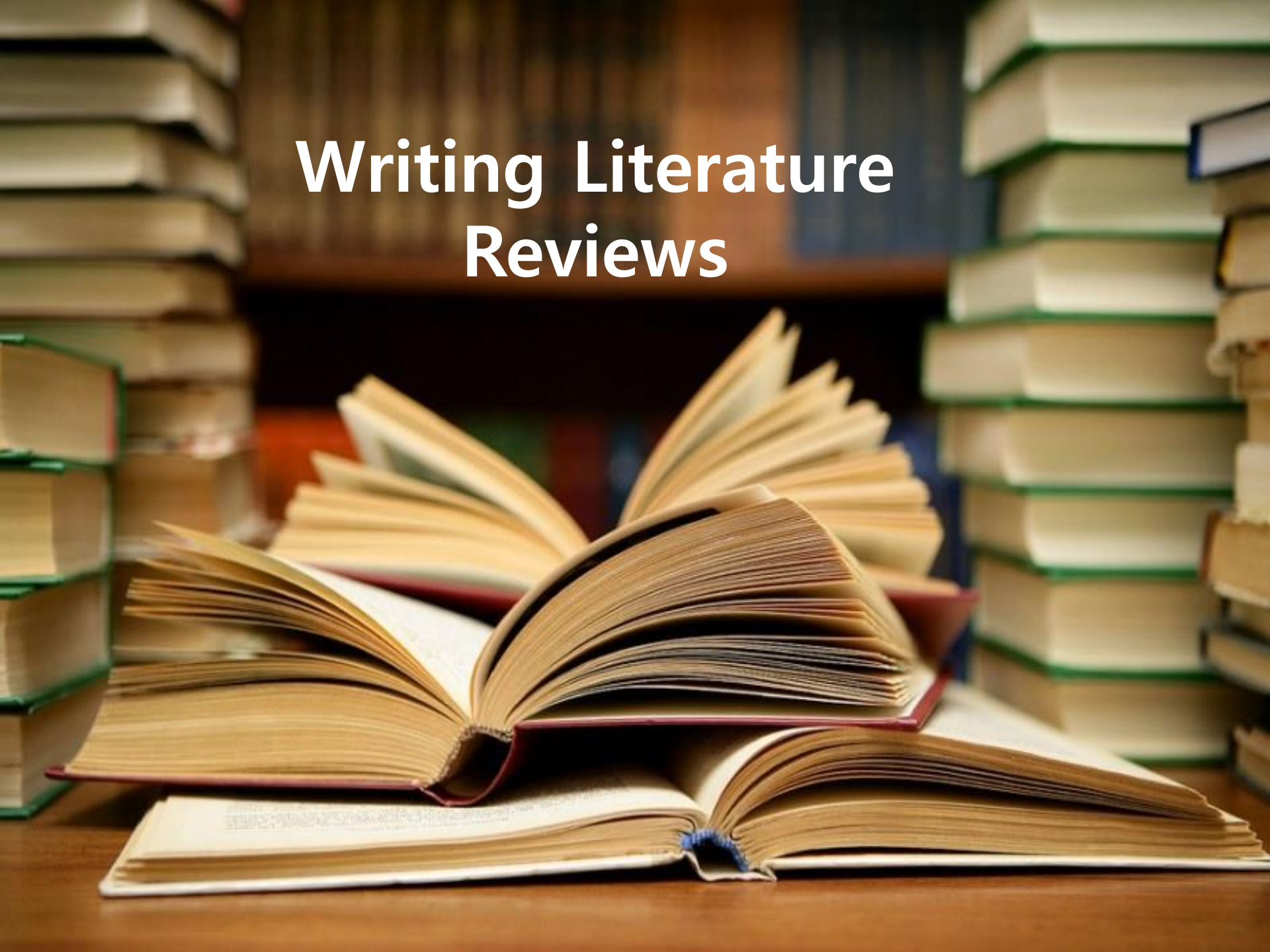


# Writing Literature Reviews

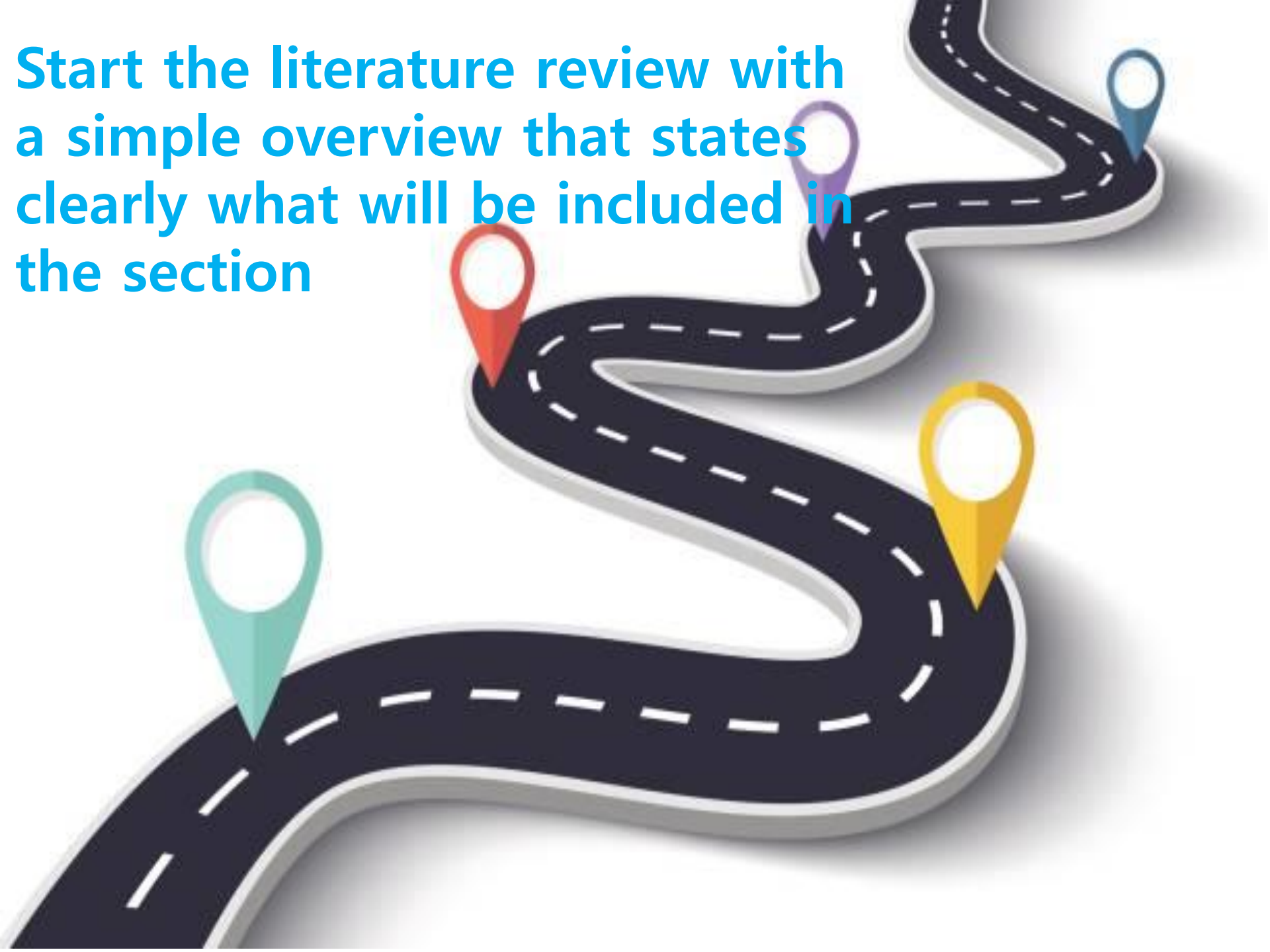


# As you research, you should:

- Make notes on **note cards**
- Include a brief **summary** of the paper
- Note key **findings** and **conclusions**
- Write any **key quotations** in full
- Include any useful details regarding **theory** or **method**
- Don't forget the **author** and **publication details**



Start the literature review with a simple overview that states clearly what will be included in the section



# **Organising the Literature Review...**



# 1.Chronological

List previous research from oldest to newest



## 2. General to specific / distant to close

Arrange the previous studies as a funnel that leads the reader to your specific area of research



### 3. Thematic

**Arrange the research as cause and effect, compare and contrast, or another relevant relationship**

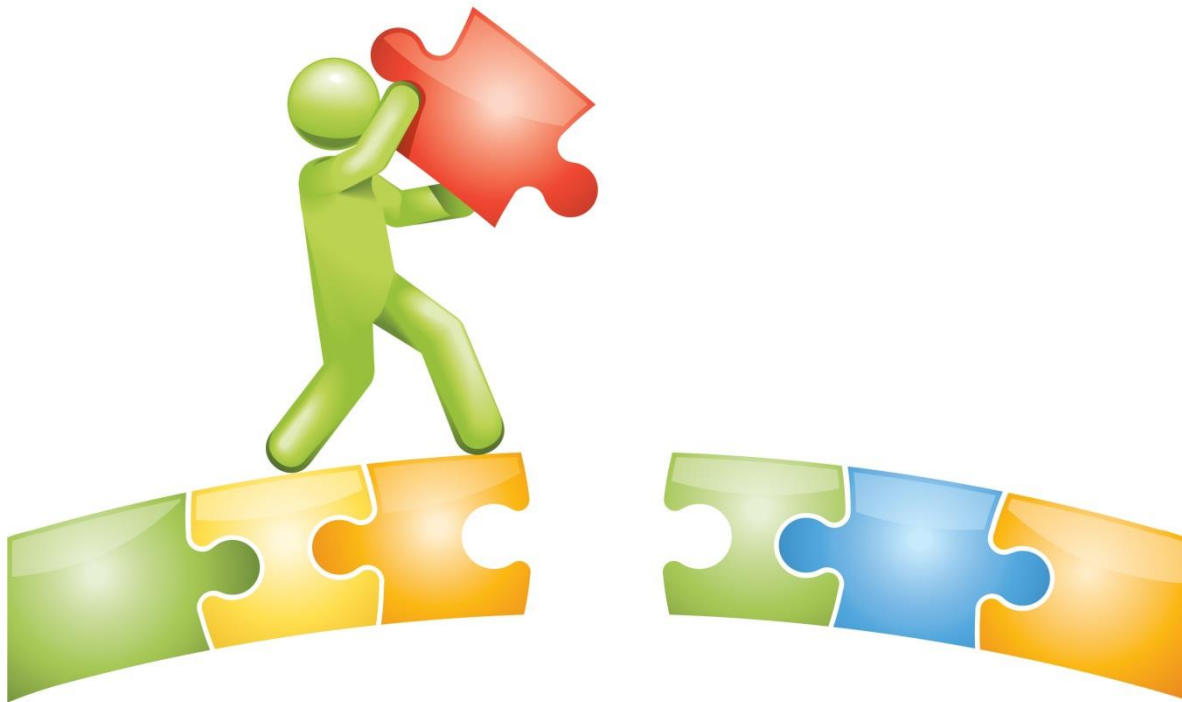


# **Activity:**

# **Organisational patterns**



# Highlight your research gap



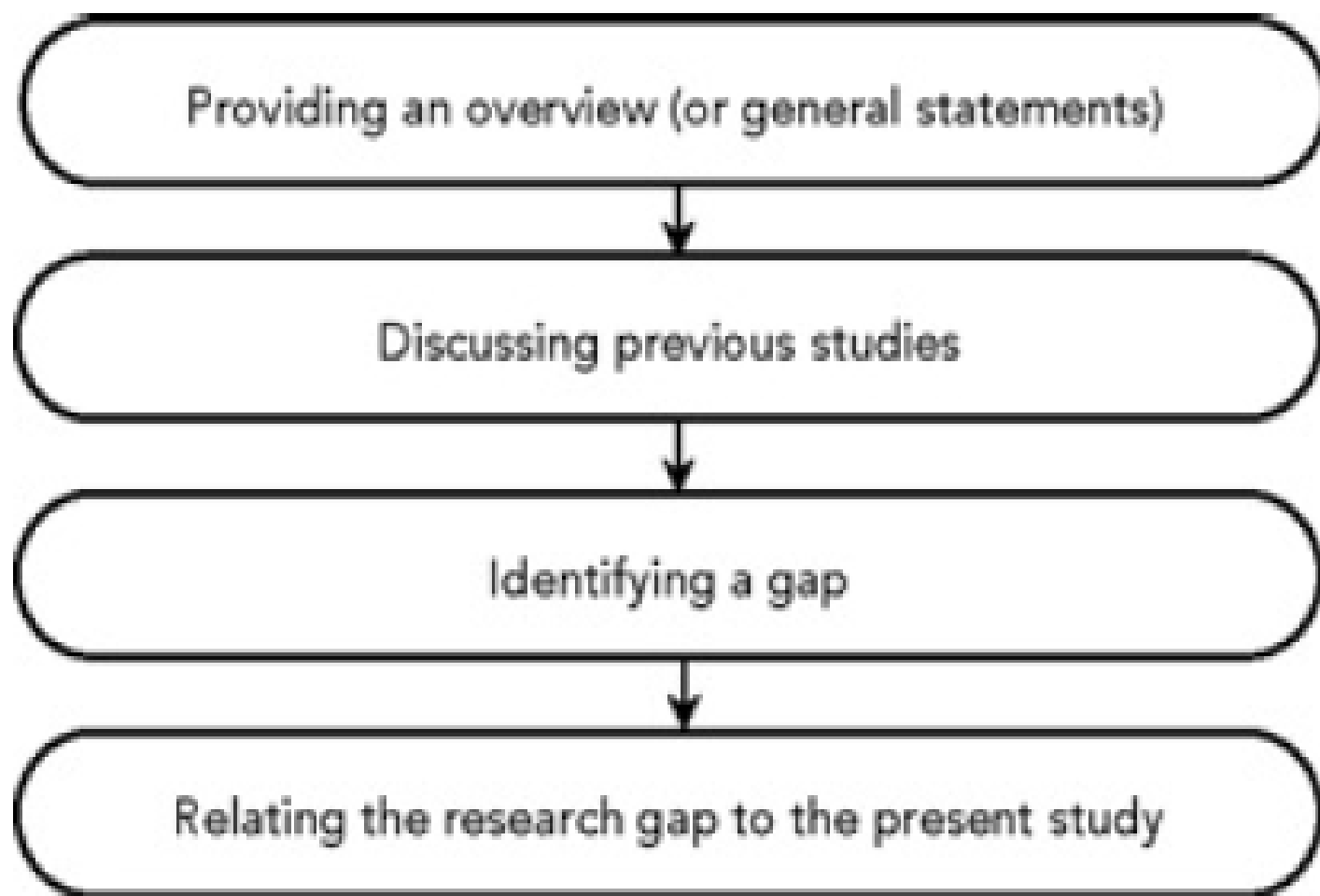


Figure 3.1: Logical development of a literature review

**Activity:**  
**The sequence of the  
literature review**

**Avoid plagiarism:  
Cite sources**



# **Link previous studies to your own work**

- Analyse cause and effect
- Compare contrast
- Evaluate the study
- Highlight a weakness



# Common mistakes:

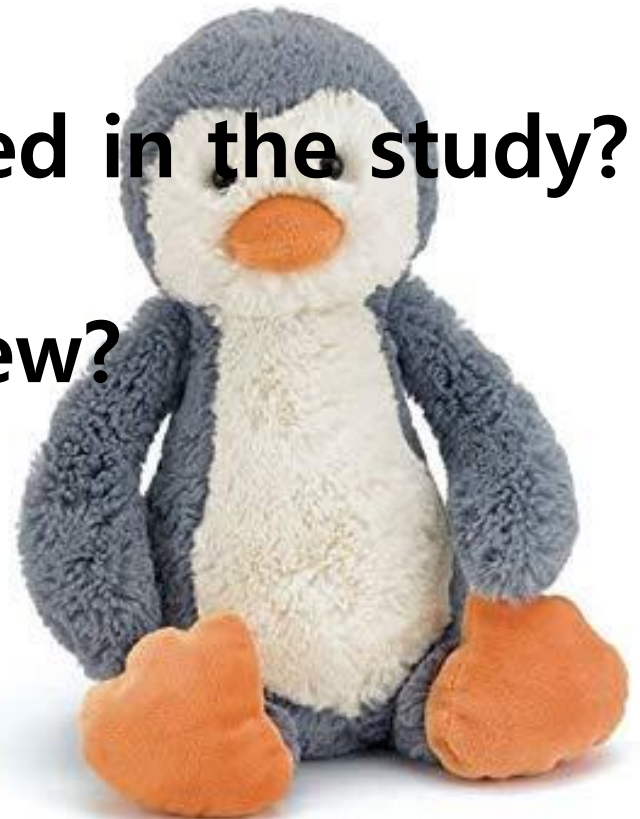
- Listing studies without comment
- Not mentioning *this* study
- Forgetting citations
- Not using recent studies
- Misreporting the findings

# Brainstorm ideas for your Final Year Project

- What would you like to study?
- How can you find your research gap?
- Have you done any background reading?
- Write a single paragraph to introduce a possible topic for your FYP.
- **Find an interesting research paper related to your topic.  
Make sure it has a clear methodology.**



- Find an interesting research paper related to your topic.
- Make sure it has a clear methodology.
- What sections are included in the study?
- Is there a Literature Review?



# 1. Analyse the introduction:

Is the introduction a funnel?

Do the writers include specific details/statistics?

Does the writer summarize previous work?

Is there a clear research gap?

Is there an objective?

Is there scope?

Are there implications for the study?



## 2. Summarize the paper:

What is the paper about?

What are the key findings and conclusions?

Are there any useful quotations?

Do you understand the method? We'll look at this tomorrow.

Do they suggest any future study?

