

LITERATURE REVIEW

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WHAT IS A LITERATURE REVIEW?

- A summary of what is already known about something (the subject)
- It provides an overview of current knowledge of the topic which allows the researcher (you) to identify theories, methods, and gaps in the research area they want to write about.

WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE

- Main purpose is to convey to the people reading about the work (investigations and research) that has already been done on the subject.
- To give an account of what is already known 12

WHY WRITE A LITERATURE REVIEW?

When writing a masters thesis, a doctoral dissertation or a research paper a literature review must be conducted. This is to situate your research to what already exists on the subject.



HOW DO I WRITE A LITERATURE REVIEW?

First find relevant publications such as:

1. Books
2. Journal articles
3. Magazines

CAI can always assist you with this search (they will NOT do it for you but can assist).

HOW DO I WRITE A LITERATURE REVIEW?

- Once you find an article, book, etc.. read the abstract.
- Should be relevant to your research (investigation)
- Look at the bibliography and see what the author used (to see other relevant sources)

HOW LONG SHOULD THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW BE?

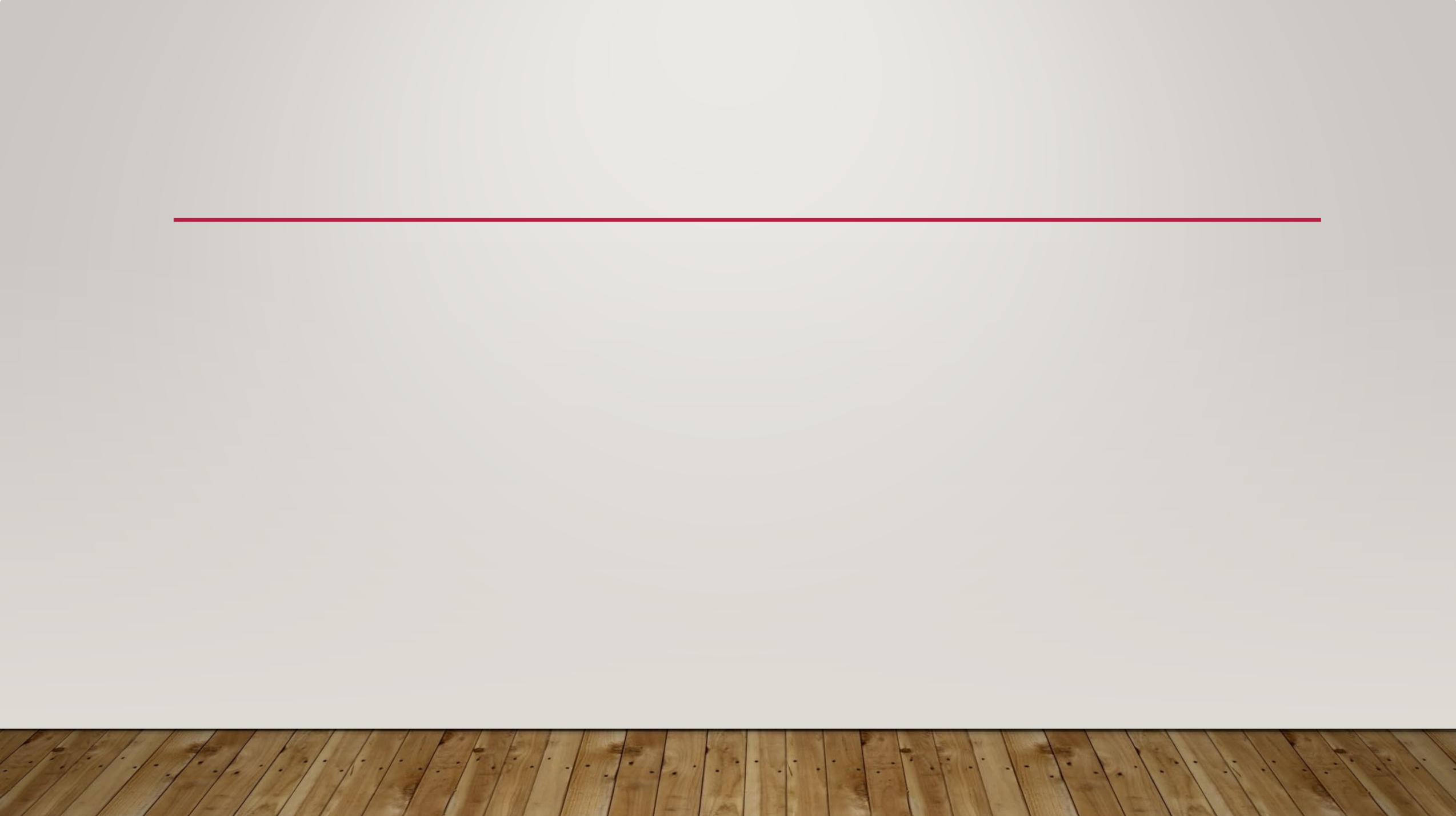
Depends on the topic and the program of study:

- Natural sciences- usually review recent literature (this will depend on YOUR PROFESSOR)

depend on your topic and discipline: in the sciences you usually only review recent literature, but in the humanities you might take a long historical perspective (for example, to trace how a concept has changed in meaning over time).



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- Once you find sources you want to use:
 - Cite your sources
 - Make an annotated bibliography for later use
 - Write a summary (usually one or two paragraphs) and analysis for each source as this will help you when you need to go back and review what you have found.



Every theory or question has opposing arguments—
each of those opposing positions will need to be
clearly delineated.

