

# LITERATURE REVIEW

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# WHAT IS A LITERATURE REVIEW?

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- 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

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- 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?

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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?

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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?

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- 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?

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Depends on the topic and the program of study:

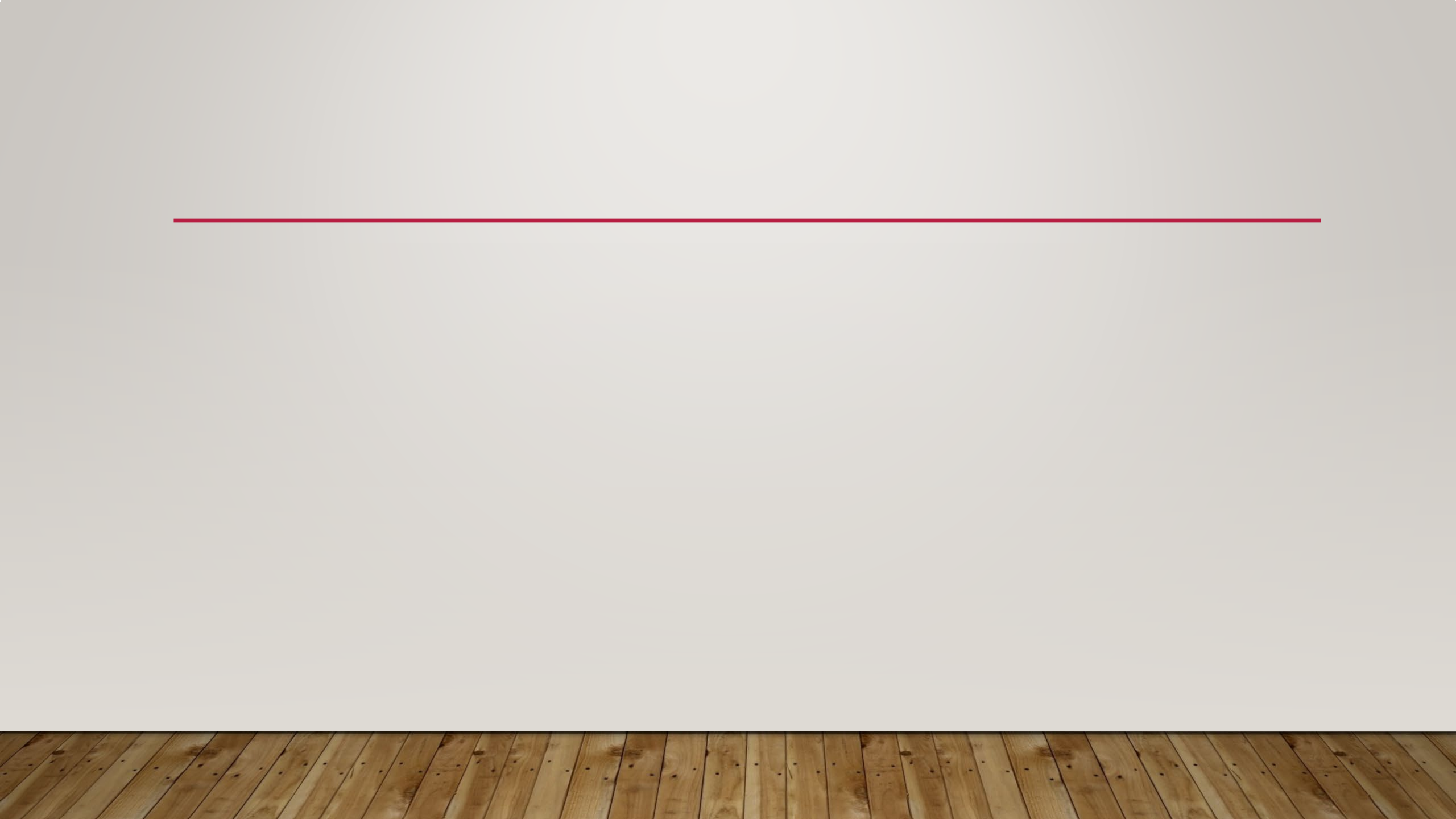
- Natural sciences- usually review recent literature (this will depend on YOUR PROFESSOR)

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.





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



