

Literature Review  
CSS 566

The purpose of this particular literature review is for you to 1) familiarize yourself with essential background literature for your sponsored project, and then 2) outline it in paragraph form. The literature review should be 2-4 pages (500-1000 words) and include at least 15 sources. If you are confused about the particular direction you should take with this project, check in with your sponsored project MOSS advisor (Teresa, Karla, Jan). I'd be happy to review drafts, but no later than Feb 9<sup>th</sup>.

The following site offers excellent advice and examples:

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/>

While you may choose your own structure, consider outlining your research from a large scope of ideas to small. For example, if you're working on the MILES project, you might consider answering:

- 1) What are social-ecological systems and why does this research matter?
- 2) What is MILES and what is its purpose?
- 3) What kind of research is taking place in your individual site?

If you are working on the REACH project consider something similar:

- 1) What is precision agriculture and why does it matter?
- 2) What is REACH and what is its purpose?
- 3) What is your particular focus in your sponsored project and why?

Each paragraph, or point, should be followed by a citation. For example, take a look at this introductory paragraph from Binder et. al. *Ecology and Society* 18(4): 26 that introduces the concept of social-ecological systems (exemplifying number 1 in the MILES outline above). Your literature review should be presented with a similar formal style and tone.

Complex environmental problems, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, resource scarcity, and resource degradation, e.g., water, energy, minerals (e.g., Vitousek et al. 1997) have been constantly increasing in relevance in both the scientific and policy communities. The experiences of various scholars have led to the insight that these complex problems cannot be analyzed with disciplinary approaches alone. They have to be dealt with in an integrative, interdisciplinary way that considers the interaction between social and ecological systems (Newell et al. 2005, Folke 2006, Young et al. 2006, Ostrom 2007, 2009).

For further information, consult the following link, or check in with me.

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/>