

# Selecting literature

- Is the review up to date?
- Are primary sources emphasized?
- Is the literature relevant to the problem/question?

# Analyzing literature

- Does the lit review analyze the findings from previous research?
- Does the review interpret (doesn't just list) previous research?
  - Critiques methods
  - Discusses conflicting results
  - Discusses limitations

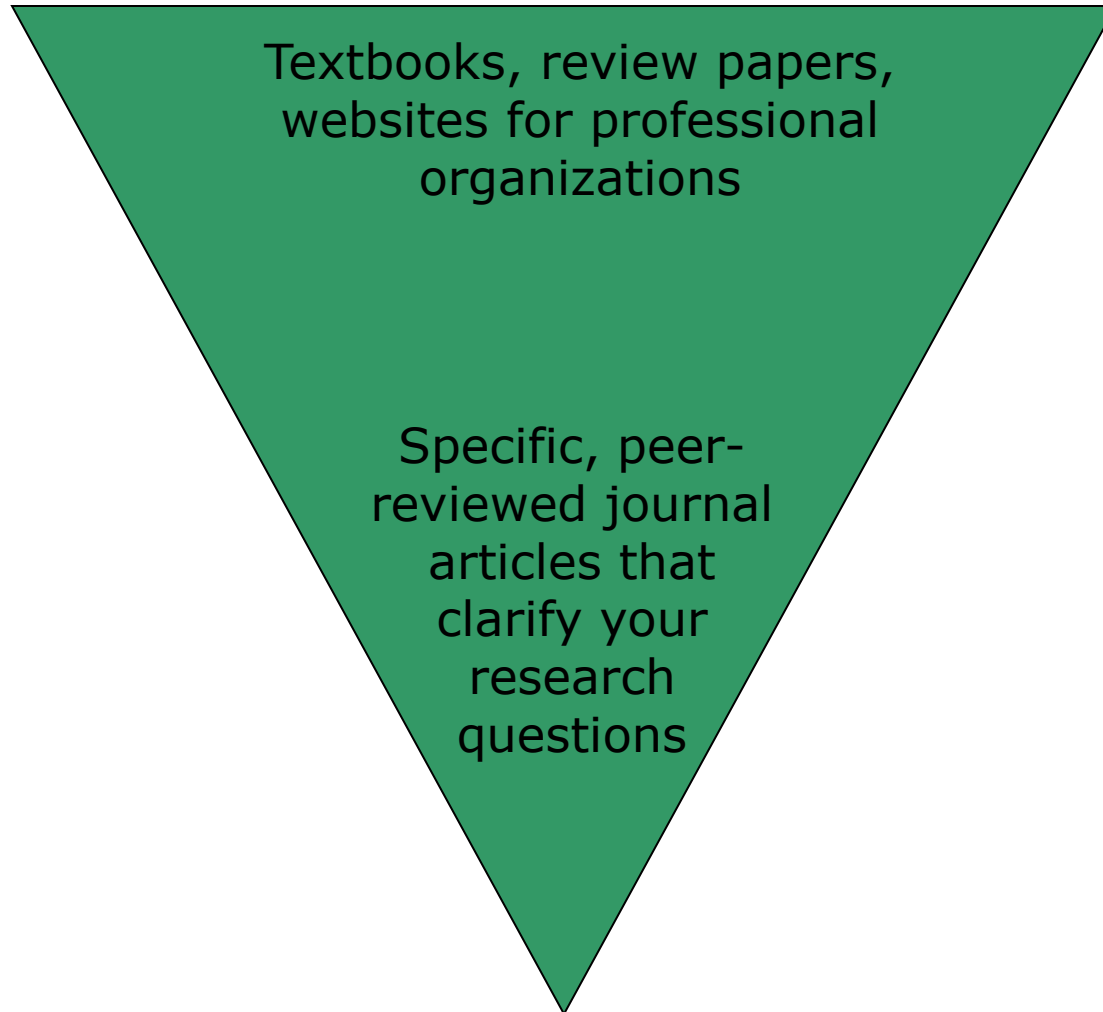
# Synthesizing literature

- Does the lit review show an understanding of the research problem?
- Do lit review implications match/justify the research questions?

# Good literature reviews should...

- Synthesize important studies in your research area
- Show the need for additional research (aka, your study)
- Be organized theoretically and thematically

# Where should I start?



# So, when you start your lit review...

- Organize literature thematically – create a “bare bones” outline
- Refine research questions
- Return to the literature
- Fill in your outline
- Ask specific research questions
- Write it up and revise