REASONS TO WRITE A LITERATURE REVIEW

• Help focus the research problem
  o What is the most important question or problem your literature review should address?
  o Is your topic too broad or too narrow?
  o Why is your topic important?

• Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of previous studies
  o How familiar are you with past research on this topic?

• Identify a framework for your research questions or problems
  o Is currency or timeliness a factor in selecting sources?
  o What limitations should you place on your research, e.g. time, gender, age, geography?

• Identify gaps, controversies, and avenues of future research

• Avoid repetition of earlier research

• Provide a summary of arguments and ideas of other researchers
  o How will you summarize the information you are gathering?

• Identify methodological and research techniques used by past researchers

• Place research in historical context