**Building Your Literature Review**

HSB4U Research Report Paper

**What is a Literature Review?**

A literature review goes beyond an annotated bibliography in which you summarize briefly each article that you have reviewed. While a summary of what you have read is contained within the literature review, you are now making this information relevant to you and your study. It focuses on a specific topic of interest to you and includes a critical analysis of the relationship among different works, and relating this research to your work.

**Things You Should Do:**

* Make specific references to the literature
* Be sure those references are relevant to your topic/hypothesis
* Note emphases, strengths, and weaknesses
* Identify trends, patterns and relationships between the sources

**Ways to Go About This:**

* Establish patterns within sources you have consulted
* Connect those patterns to your own research (they will either support or refute)
* Think of your literature review as an essay – several paragraphs should suffice (no real rule on this as far as I’m concerned), but a highly effective literature review is written according to theme/finding, not as a stand-alone annotation (**don’t just copy and paste your OPCVL’s**).
* Don’t be limited by number of sources – you’ve done a lot of research so this is your chance to use it!!