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| **Literature Reviews 1: Definition and Purpose**  |
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| **Setting:** | Seminar |
| **Level:** | Level 6 |
| **Activity duration:** | 20-30 minutes |
| **Guidance:** | This leads onto *Literature Reviews 2: Planning and Approach* |
| **Additional resources:** | *Literature Reviews: Definition and Purpose worksheet* |
| **Outcomes: students should be able to** * define the key ideas of a literature review
* discuss the features of a literature review
* explore the purpose of a literature review in line with the module assessment criteria
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| **Pre-task preparation:** * Read through the corresponding *Literature Reviews: Definition and Purpose worksheet*
* Ask students to write some preliminary notes regarding their ideas for research ideas

**Optional:** * Set-up a Mentimeter word cloud activity for the initial task with the question, ‘What are the key ideas of a literature review?’
* Construct a Padlet to collate ideas discussed in the session
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**Steps to implement the activity:** 1. Ask students to either contribute to a word cloud (if using Mentimeter) or to share their ideas regarding what they think are the key features or ideas of a literature review. Students can use section 1 of the *Literature Reviews 1: Definition and Purpose* worksheet to complete this.
2. Construct a concise definition of literature review as a group. Ideally it should be 2 sentences and should be connected to the specific module to make it more meaningful the students.
3. Develop the above discussions further by encouraging students to explore what they perceive should be included as the core elements of a literature review.
4. Allow students to work in small groups to generate ideas- ask them to write their ideas on post-its which will be stuck on the whiteboard later. Alternatively, instruct students to contribute their ideas to a Padlet.
5. Circulate around the groups to see what ideas they have (at this point ask students to stick their Post-its on the whiteboard).
6. Present the list of components found in section 2 of the Literature Reviews 1: Definition and Purpose worksheet. Develop a discussion where students compare their ideas with the list.
7. Bringing it together: ask students to refer to the Venn diagram on section 3 of the *Literature Reviews 1: Definition and Purpose* worksheet. Students should work independently to note their ideas against the different components of the Venn diagram.

**Extension activity:** ask students to use the ideas from the sessions to write a brief plan for their upcoming literature review. |

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