



# The Literature Review: Six Steps to Success

By Larry A. Machi, Brenda T. (Tyler) McEvoy

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*From daunting to doable in six steps*

The process of literature search and composing a formal literature review can be intimidating. But masters and doctoral candidates in Education and related fields have found academic argumentation to be seamlessly intuitive with the six-step process pioneered by this book. This updated third edition features a wealth of all-new content including:

- A flowchart that graphically illustrates Machi and McEvoy's process.
- Reflective Oversight boxes in each chapter, prompting readers to direct metacognitive activities.
- Links to online guides and resources.
- Expanded examples illustrating theoretical concepts.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

*"The Literature Review clearly walks educators through the steps to completing a literature review with helpful checklists and graphic representations of the process. It makes a very daunting task much more manageable and systematic for those who are new to writing literature reviews or who are having trouble getting started and maintaining momentum."* (Andrea M. Capizzi)

*"The authors have provided a primer for planning, creating, developing, and researching literature reviews for new and experienced social scientists."* (Maureen K. Lienau)

*"The third edition of this text is the best guide yet for our dissertation students. The format provides the learner with the framework to think about each step of the literature review process. Candidates will find the graphs and charts most helpful as they conceptualize the process they will be using to think about their topic. This edition uses adult learning theory to keep the candidate focused on the best use of their time while organizing their review. This thorough and practical guide will provide candidates with the scholarly application that they require to think about their research."* (Barbara J. Poling, Interim Dean)

### **About the Author**

**Lawrence A. Machi** is a Professor Emeritus of Organizational Leadership at the University of La Verne, in La Verne, California. He holds an MA in curriculum development and an Ed.D. in organizational leadership. He has taught research methods and design, and has chaired doctoral dissertation research in addition to teaching classes in organizational development. He has extensive experience in higher education, and prior to his tenure at La Verne, he taught in schools of education at the University of San Francisco, St. Mary's College of California, and Sonoma State University. Dr. Machi currently serves as a Fulbright Specialist, having recently completed an assignment in Taiwan.

With K–12 experience as well, he has worked as a secondary teacher and served as a school administrator in both secondary and elementary school districts in Northern California. He has occupied the roles of vice principal, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent, frequently consulting with many California school districts and nonprofit organizations. His specialties are in the areas of organizational leadership, finance, negotiations, organizational development, and strategic thinking.

**Brenda T. McEvoy** taught high school English, history, and science for thirty-six years. Research skills were always part of her curriculum. For eight years, she worked for the California State Department of Education leading groups of educators in improving their ability to edit and assess student writing. Also for the state, she was a mentor for beginning English and history teachers. Participation in the California Writing Project extended her knowledge of writing and the difficulties students face when producing a major assignment. She has worked as an editor for several books, focusing on helping writers create work that is clear and logical.

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