



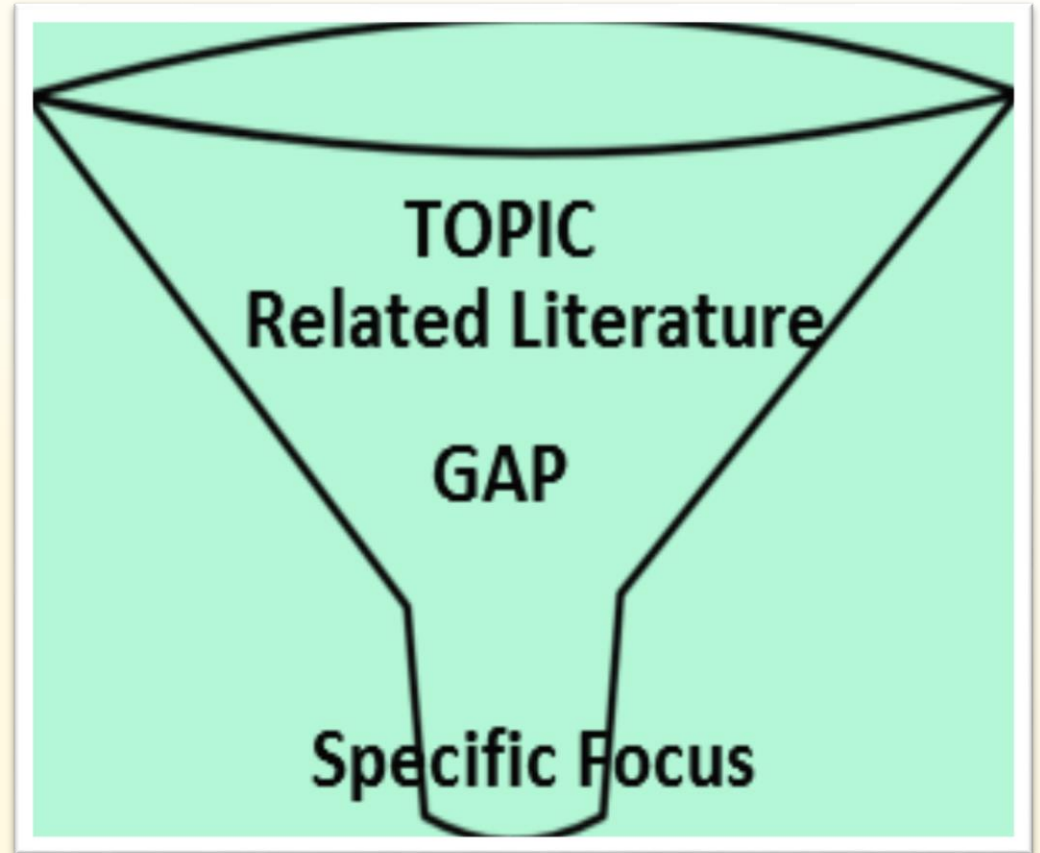
Finding the Gap: How to Identify the Need for Your Study

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To find a gap in the literature

1. Review the related literature
2. Organize the studies by constructs/themes
3. Look for what is missing in each construct/theme
4. Justify the need for your study



Step 1: Review the Related Literature

- Chart the literature by
- sub-topics
- themes

Authors Reference	Topic	Sub-topics	Themes	Scope (size of study)	Data Collected from?	Methodology used in studies & other notes/ideas

Step 2: Example One

- The Influence of Extracurricular Activities on the Acculturation of Vietnamese American Middle School Students

<u>Focus</u>	<u>Sub-Topics/Themes</u>
Acculturation of Vietnamese American Adolescents	Acculturation Adolescence Socialization Extracurricular engagement Asian immigrants Adolescent socialization

Step 3: Identify Gaps in the Literature by Themes

Sub-Topic/ Theme	Gaps
Acculturation	Limited research on Asians: the Model Minority.
Bi-Dimensional Theory	A few studies on Vietnamese acculturation.
Asian immigrants	Only two studies on Vietnamese adolescents: academics, language acquisition.
Adolescence	Numerous studies on socialization of adolescents.
Socialization	Limited linking to acculturation.
Asian adolescent socialization	One study on Korean adolescent socialization and acculturation through sports. Limited research on Vietnamese adolescents. Focused on academics.

Example One Specific Gap

- The Influence of Extracurricular Activities on the Acculturation of Vietnamese American Middle School Students

Gap in the literature specifically addressing the influence of socialization, through engagement in extracurricular activities, on the acculturation of Vietnamese American middle schools students utilizing Bi-Dimensional Theory

Step 2: Example Two

- Factors Impacting Older Adults' Adoption of Mobile Technology in Emergency Communications

<u>Focus</u>	<u>Sub-Topics/Themes</u>
Older adults in the workforce Technology	Older workers remaining in workforce Emergency communications Mobile technology Adoption factors Rogers's diffusion of innovations theory & Davis's technology acceptance model

Step 3: Identify Gaps in the Literature by Themes

Sub-Topic / Theme	Gaps
Older workers remaining in workforce	Limited research on older workers and mobile technology
Emergency communications (EC)	Very few studies specifically in adoption in EC
Mobile technology	Studies on mobile technology do not focus on older workers
Rogers's diffusion of innovations theory & Davis's technology acceptance model	Specific factors identified but not explored in depth
Adoption factors	gap in the research on older adults' adoption of mobile technology specifically in the emergency communications field

Example Two Specific Gap

- Factors Impacting Older Adults' Adoption of Mobile Technology in Emergency Communications

Gap in the research on older adults' adoption of mobile technology utilizing Rogers's diffusion of innovations theory & Davis's technology acceptance model specifically in the emergency communications field.

Step 2: Example Three

- Lived Experiences of Women Over 50 Who Have Experienced Involuntary Job Loss

Focus

The economic
downturn

Women in the workforce

Sub-Topic/Themes

Involuntary job loss

Older workers

Older women in the workforce

Impact: Emotional

Financial

Psycho-social

Barriers to reemployment

Overcoming barriers to reemployment

Step 3: Identify Gaps in the Literature by Themes

Sub-Topic / Theme	Gaps
Involuntary job loss Older workers Older women in the workforce Bandura & Leana and Feldman: Impact: Emotional, Financial, Psycho-social Barriers to reemployment Overcoming barriers to reemployment	Numerous studies –some include older workers Studies predominantly focused on the experiences of men Limited prior research on the job loss experiences of women over 50 years Under-representation of the experiences of women Gap in the literature involuntary job loss of women over 50 , the barriers faced to reemployment, and the ways women overcame the barriers to reemployment

Example Three Specific Gap

- Lived Experiences of Women Over 50 Who Have Experienced Involuntary Job Loss

Gap in the literature specifically regarding the involuntary job loss of women over 50 utilizing Bandura & Leana and Feldman's framework:

The barriers faced to reemployment

The ways women overcame the barriers to reemployment