



General UQ policy: <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/4.60.05-research-higher-degree-candidature-progression-and-development>  
 See your School's website for a more detailed statement of what is required of you.

# Generic Mind Map of Focus Questions for a Literature Review

A map for when you have defined your research question.

A literature review is an exposition of the existing knowledge *and reasoning* which led you to believe that what you did was worth doing in the way that you did it, written so as to *convince* the reader of these things.

## Constructing the map

1. Develop a clear and complete statement of your research question.
2. Underline each key term / concept / phrase.

3. Identify questions which flow from each of (2) and the research question as a whole. Generic questions to explore include:
  - a. Motivations for research: (i) significance of area; (ii) gap / deficiency in existing knowledge
  - b. Sources of new ideas / hypotheses
  - c. Theory to guide where to look for answers.

4. Look for follow-on questions and links.
5. Questions and map can be developed in any order. Once map is complete, can add numbers indicating a logical order in which to write up the map.  
(Note that the placement of numbers on this map is indicative only, not necessarily an order which will work in all circumstances.)

These are methodological issues which may require their own lit review and mind map to address.

