Comments on Lit Review Drafts

* Whenever you make a point that someone could disagree with, you need to**cite a source that supports your point**. Remember, everything is based on research in an academic paper, especially in the Review of Literature section.
* **Don’t give the findings away in the intro**. Instead of listing everything that you will prove in the paper, set up the issue. Be careful not to provide the answer to your question in the introduction before you've even discussed the findings in the Review of Literature section.
* If you devote more space to the methods than the findings, reverse this. **Findings are the most important part of each study.**
* **Cite heavily** when you discuss the findings; you may find you have a citation after almost every sentence in the Review of the Literature section, and that’s ok. Data is always cited.
* Try to**vary the way you cite** in a paragraph; sometimes use the authors’ names in the sentence, sometimes just cite them in the parentheses at the end, but don’t do it the same every time.
* **Save your own thoughts for the Discussion** section. The Review of Literature should be just that, a review of the specific findings from each study in relation to the themes you have established. Don’t analyze those findings until you get to the Discussion section.
* **Synthesize the sources together** in the last few sentences of a theme. For example, state how they were all similar or maybe state how a couple were similar and one or two contrasted. Synthesize by using more than one source in a parenthetical citation as explained on p. 178 or the *APA Manual*. In the following example, notice that the **sources are listed in alphabetical order when they are synthesized within a parenthetical citation.**
	+ Example: Overall, job satisfaction was found to be higher in hospitals that attained Magnet status (Bae, 2013; Chan et al, 2012; Smith et al., 2017). Additionally, the improved job satisfaction led to lower burnout (Bae, 2013; Smith et al., 2017).
* Whenever you state something as fact in an academic paper, you need to cite it. If you are only suggesting something, than use words that equivocate a little. See these two examples:
	+ The current nursing shortage is due to nurse exhaustion. (**This needs a citation**.)
	+ The current nursing shortage may be related to nurse exhaustion. (**This doesn’t need a citation** because you are making an observation, not stating a fact).
* Every source that you cite in the paper must be on the References list. Conversely, every source on the References list must be cited somewhere in the paper. Check your paper against your Reference list for this.

This document shows you an example of synthesizing in the Review of Literature section:

[Example of Synthesizing at the End of Each Theme.docx](https://canvas.emich.edu/courses/43891/files/7991160/download?wrap=1)