

Entrepreneurship & Society Working on your assignment

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Research process

Choose a topic that truly interests/puzzles/bothers you

Look for relevant research articles

• Google Scholar is a good help (How many times the article has been cited? Search from the Citing works. Scan through Related articles.)

Read the prior work

· Make notes, critique and reflect

Write up and refine your thoughts

· Start immediately

Conclude how (you would like) to study this further

• Specific themes/questions, particular contexts, selected methods etc.



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Topic examples from prior courses

- Entrepreneurship education for migrants
- Strategies for expanding beyond ethnic enclave
- Entrepreneurs' pitching
- Entrepreneurs and burnout
- Risks in intrapreneurship
- Fear of failure and female entrepreneurship
- Obstacles of female entrepreneurship in country/industry
- Entrepreneurs preparation and impact on crisis recovery
- Institutionalisation and new ventures
- Assumptions in entrepreneurship research
- Concepts of sustainable, social and environmental entrepreneurship



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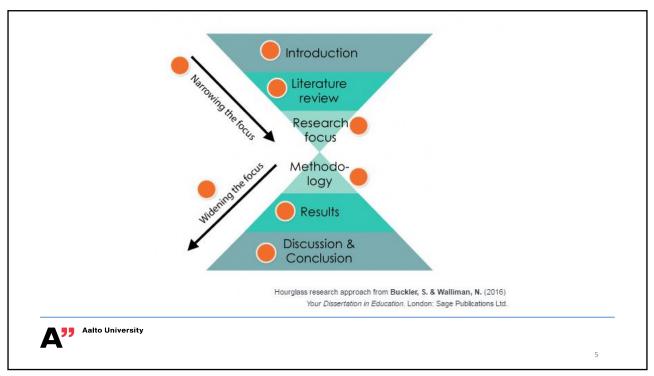
Check out MyCourses

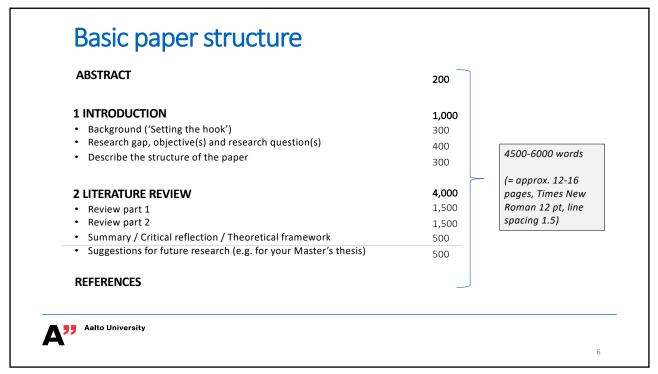






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Introduction

Thinking

- What are you interested? Why does this matter?
- What particular aspect bothers/intrigues you?
- What will you explore and accomplish in this paper?

Writing

- > 1.1. Background and 'hook'
- 1.2. Research gap / objectives / questions
- > 1.3. Structure of the paper



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Literature review examples

1 theme:

Female entrepreneurship

- 2. Literature Review
 - Presents the theme of your research shortly, e.g. what is female entrepreneurship, how is it distinctive
- 2.1. Review part 1
 - Zooms into an aspect of your research, following the structure of your choosing, e.g. what are the benefits of female entrepreneurship for individuals, families, societies
- 2.2. Review part 2
 - Zooms into an aspect of your research, following the structure of your choosing, e.g. what are the obstacles of female entrepreneurship
- 2.3. Summary / framework
 - Critically reflects what is female entrepreneurship and what do we know about its benefits and obstacles
- 2.4. Avenues for future research
 - Suggests what/how/where to study the topic further, and argues why that would be interesting/relevant

2 themes: Entrepreneurial identity & sustainable entrepreneurship

- 2. Literature Review
 - Presents shortly the key themes/concepts and what follows in the next sections of the literature review
- 2.1. Review part 1
 - Presents theme 1 of your research, following the structure of your choosing, e.g. what is entrepreneurial identity and how personal values and motivations influence engaging in entrepreneurship
- 2.2. Review part 2
 - Presents theme 2 by focusing on your specific interest, e.g. what is sustainable entrepreneurship, what do we know about the role of entrepreneurial identity in it
- 2.3. Summary / framework
 - Critically reflects what is entrepreneurial identity and how it relates to sustainable entrepreneurship
- 2.4. Avenues for future research
 - Suggests what/how/where to study the topic further, and argues why that would be interesting/relevant

Summary / framework

- Represents the researcher's critical assessment and synthesis of literature on how to approach the phenomenon under study
- Presents the key elements of the phenomenon, and how they relate to each other
- Helps to make conceptual distinctions and organize ideas
- Can be a textual summary (e.g. 1-2 pages) and/or a figure/model
- ➤ Helps to assess and refine your goals for future research
 - > Realistic and relevant research questions
 - > Appropriate methods



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Tools for searching articles

Google Scholar:

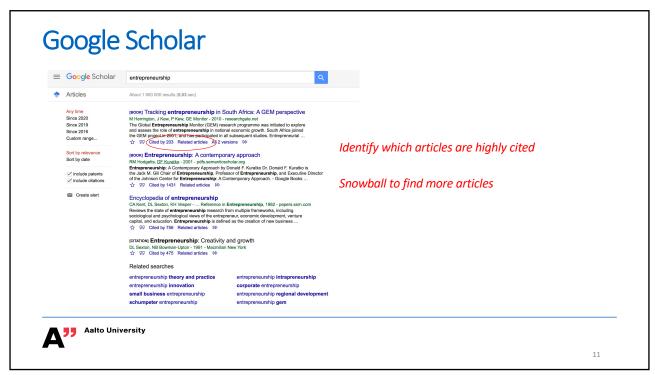
https://scholar.google.com

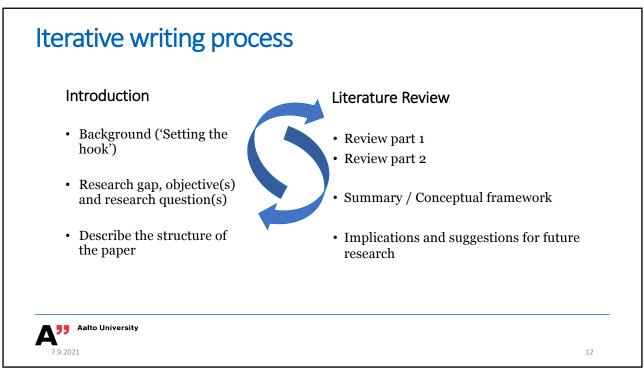
Aalto library general search:

https://primo.aalto.fi/

Select "Articles" before or after you get the search results.







Help along the way

- Check out the videos and extra material in MyCourses
- Look at good examples at Aalto eThesis: https://aaltodoc.aalto.fi/handle/123456789/127
- Discuss with others and ask for feedback!
- Sign up for Feedback sessions



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Check list: Characteristics of excellent assignments (more info in the Rubrik)

Introduction

- The topic relates to a larger societal/practical/theoretical dilemma that motivates the research.
- The choice of research objectives/questions is explained by identifying importance of these questions and/or lack or ambiguity of research around them.

Literature review

- The literature review utilizes relevant sources from entrepreneurship/ management /social sciences research.
- The structure of the literature review is logical, and it summarizes and critiques the prior literature.
- The insights gained from the prior literature are concluded (verbally and/or visually) to explicate the core elements related to the research objectives/questions, and to show how they relate to each other.

Conclusions

- The insights gained from the literature are contrasted with the original research objectives/questions to assess how the prior literature helps to understand the ohenomenon in more detail.
- The ideas for future research are grounded on the insights of the literature review (and the developed framework). They are more nuanced and concrete than the ideas that could have been originally identified and imagined.

In aeneral

- The paper is coherent and easy to read, and it has a consistent 'red line' that reflects the authors' own thinking.
- The paper is written following academic style (structure, language use, referencing).
- The author shows awareness of research ethics, e.g. in terms of the topic choice and use of the work done by others.

Most important: Demonstrate understanding of the research process

- ✓ Well-structured and clearly argued
- ✓ Reflects your own thinking
- ✓ Focuses on quality over quantity



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