

# Reviewing the Related Literature

How to Publish an Academic Article Workshops

The Society for History Education – The History Teacher

# You must relate your research to previous studies

- 1) What is the related literature?
- 2) How to read the related literature.
- 3) Find your entry point.
- 4) Look at at model articles.

# 1) What is the related literature?

- What is the “related literature?”
  - All published journal articles cite other written materials – this is known as “the literature.”
  - You have to connect your article to the work of other scholars.
  - There is nothing that is entirely new.

## 2) How to read the related literature.

- You cannot (and should not) read everything.
- Tips to learn about the related literature quickly
  - 1) Set up your bibliographic software
  - 2) Narrow down your reading list
  - 3) Subscribe to peer-review journals
  - 4) Read the newest material first
  - 5) Limit note-taking
  - 6) Don't wait to write

### 3) Find your entry point.

- You need to find a way to connect your argument to the literature.
  - This is the “entry point”
- Tips for finding your entry point
  - 1) addressing a gap in the literature
  - 2) extending previous research
  - 3) correcting previous research

## 4) Look at at model articles.

- Look at model articles
- William and Edwyna Gilbert Award Recipients
  - Rien Fertel, Elizabeth S. Manley, Jenny Schwartzberg, and Robert Ticknor, "Teaching in the Archives: Engaging Students and Inverting Historical Methods Classes at the Historic New Orleans Collection," *The History Teacher* 53, no. 1 (November 2019)
  - Leah Shopkow, "How Many Sources Do I Need," *The History Teacher* 50, no. 2 (February 2017)
  - Peter Burkholder, "A Content Means to a Critical Thinking End: Group Quizzing in History Surveys," *The History Teacher* 47, no. 4 (August 2014): 551-78