

Before the draft

Literature review / literature-based course paper

Use this sheet to make a plan you can explain. Empirical projects also need a separate plan for their data and methods.

1 Check the assignment

Record the assignment type, scope, deadline, citation style and your course rules for AI use and disclosure.

2 Narrow one research question

Fictional teaching example: replace "social media and students" with a question about how the literature describes social-media use and procrastination among undergraduates. This is not a causal finding.

My focused question:

3 Map the evidence

Identify what supports each claim. Read the relevant argument and methods before relying on a source.

Claim or question	Evidence needed	Source + reading status

4 Give each section a job

Write a purpose for each section and connect it to the research question. Avoid a list of authors or repeated background.

Section purpose + evidence:

5 Review before drafting

- ☐ The question fits the assignment and available evidence.
- ☐ I have read the sources I rely on and verified their citation details.
- ☐ Each section has a purpose and evidence to support it.
- ☐ I checked course AI rules and any disclosure requirements.

Then draft, check claims and quotations, verify references, and revise the work yourself.