* + [Social Autobiography](https://moodle.tru.ca/course/view.php?id=6055&section=13#bootstrapelements34074)

Introduction

We are all products of our culture to some extent, and a case can be made that we experience life through a particular cultural lens, that we have different *worldviews*. One’s worldview inherently contains perceptions about how knowledge is constructed, how we see others, how we make choices, and how we interpret different situations. It is important as a researcher to have a clear sense of what your views are, how they developed, and what drives your interest in specific topics.

Instructions

To help to clarify your own cultural lens, this assignment will be for you to create a 4-page or so (double-spaced) social biography of yourself. The following questions can be used as a guide. Please note that they are meant to be just guidelines to reflect on your own experiences. They will help you gain insights into the values, beliefs, and concepts or knowledge that constitute your worldview, and the experiences that may have influenced and ultimately shaped your worldview. You do not need to elaborate on all of them, and you may come up with other things not included in the following questions, which are provided for your reflection:

* + 1. Where were you born? When? Where have you lived?
    2. What experiences from your upbringing as a child (e.g., the way you were raised, historical events) were instrumental in shaping your views on education?
    3. What were the important societal events that shaped your life (e.g., wars, economic booms or depressions, natural disasters, political upheavals)?
    4. What is your gender? What role does this play in the opportunities and limitations you have had in life?
    5. Are there historical, political, or cultural figures that have influenced your way of thinking? In what way?
    6. Who has been important in your life? What roles have they played?
    7. What is your current role in education, and what path did you take to get there?
    8. What topics in education do you find interesting and meaningful? Why?
    9. What has been your professional trajectory? How have different professional experiences or jobs influenced you?
    10. Which are some of the cultural dynamics or currents that have influenced you (e.g., a music genre and particular groups or artists or songs, art movements or works of art, literature)?
    11. Which are the lifestyles and politics associated with these individuals mentioned in previous question, and how have they influenced you?
    12. What is the role of religion in your life? What role has religion played in the development of your identity? In which ways does it intersect or influence your role as an educator, leader, or counsellor?

Once you have reflected upon the above questions, compose your social biography. You may want to use Creative Commons images from sites such as Wikimedia Commons, Pics4Learning, Public Domain Images, FlickrCC, and Free Images on Pixabay throughout the document to complement your narrative.

Your word-processed assignments should follow APA format. Make sure you properly cite sources when using someone else’s ideas or images.

Marking Guide

This assignment will be evaluated based on the depth and analytical quality of the connections and reflections made. The following rubric will be used.

Assessment Rubric for Social Autobiography

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **No evidence** | **Some evidence** | **Good evidence** | **Very thorough** |
| Thorough consideration of key life events | *0 marks* | *1 mark* | *2 marks* | *3 marks* |
| Thoughtful and analytical examination from multiple perspectives of key life events and their role in constructing current beliefs system | *0 marks* | *1 mark* | *2 marks* | *3 marks* |
| Deep understanding of how one’s worldview inherently contains perceptions about how knowledge is constructed, how we see others, how we make choices, and how we interpret different situations |  |  |  |  |

* + [Literature Review](https://moodle.tru.ca/course/view.php?id=6055&section=13#bootstrapelements34080)

Introduction

For this assignment, you provide a review of the literature that supports your specific research proposal. Being able to critically examine and synthesise literature on a given topic is a valuable skill in your career, whether as a researcher or as a scholarly professional. A literature review allows you to identify what is known about a given issue or topic and what are outstanding questions. It informs the course of action for both researchers and practitioners.

Instructions

Write an introduction, identify a research problem, explain its importance, and identified research question(s). Then follow with your literature review.

Your literature review should support the statement of research interest and question(s). Since research is an iterative process, you may find that you want to make revisions to your introduction, statement of the research interest, and research question(s). Please do so. Your goal should be to prepare a manuscript that is logically sound and flows well from beginning to end.

You are writing this literature review as a researcher, and the review you present will provide the basis for your research question(s).

You will not be answering your research question; rather, you will be stating it and justifying it with reference to the literature you have reviewed that tells us what is already known.

The review must include a reasonable number of articles drawn from the research literature. No specific number is required, but you are expected to cite enough articles to build an argument. Taken together, the literature review should be approximately 2,000–2,500 words.

Tips for the Literature Review

* + - Integrate ideas and information from different sources.
    - Engage with the theory and research findings that you are presenting. That is, do not present all of the information as fact simply because you found the information published somewhere. Rather, compare and contrast, challenge and support, and identify gaps in the literature.
    - Summarize the research on your topic and do that by putting similar ideas or conclusions from the different research papers, **not**by summarizing the articles one by one according to the date of publication.
    - Classify articles under review into categories (e.g. those in support of a particular findings, positions, or point of view; those presenting contradictory findings, and those offering alternative findings, positions, or points of view).
    - Explain how each work is similar to and how it varies from the others.
    - Include a summary paragraph at the end of each section that summarizes the key points of the research that you just reviewed.
    - Provide conclusions as to which pieces are best considered in their argument, methodology, design, or findings; which are most convincing of their opinions, and make the greatest contribution to the understanding and development of their area of research.
    - Identify what is known and what remains to be known about your area of interest based on the work reviewed.

Marking Guide

Your mark will be based on several factors, including the quality of literature you have selected, apparent completeness of the review, and presentation of the argument.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Description** | **Score** |
| Source articles | * + - The literature review includes a reasonable number of articles drawn from multiple sources.     - The literature cited includes primarily peer-reviewed research articles. Other literature (such as books and review articles) may be included. If other documents are cited (including blog posts or other online sources) they are clearly identified. | **/ 20 marks** |
| Well-constructed and clear argument | * + - The review creates an argument supporting a particular research direction. (*20 marks*)     - Literature is summarized accurately. (*10 marks*)     - The review demonstrates familiarity with concepts in the field of study. (*5 marks*)     - Important concepts and terms are defined and used consistently. (*5 marks*) | **/ 40 marks** |
| Development of ideas | * + - The literature review as a whole provides solid support for the research questions.     - The research questions flow logically from the introduction and the literature review. | **/ 15 marks** |
| Organization and flow of ideas | * + - There is a clear connection and flow between all parts | **/ 10 marks** |
| Clarity and citations | * + - The literature review is clear, well-written, and formatted according to APA style | **/ 15 marks** |