

## Notes to Guide Reading

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### Week 2, Section 1: The Literature Review, and Arguments for Stricter Immigration Policies

#### Knopf, “Doing a Literature Review” (2006)

- This paper is written for graduate students who are preparing to write Master’s theses or doctoral dissertations, though I think the author is wrong to assume that undergraduates do not write literature reviews—our class is a case in point. In any event, Knopf details several considerations that will help you to understand how to complete your own literature review for your term paper assignment.
  - With that in mind, for our purposes, focus your reading to be able to answer the following questions:
    - What does it mean to conduct a review of relevant literature as but one stage in a broader research project? And what is the general purpose of a literature review *in this context*?
    - While Knopf acknowledges that most of our research should still rely heavily on peer-reviewed academic sources (“books published by academic presses and articles published in academic journals”), explain a few other acceptable forms of research that we as academic writers may incorporate into our writing projects.
    - Why, according to Knopf, should we carefully scrutinize sources relevant to our topic that we find on the internet?
    - How should a literature review be constructed—that is, what does a literature review as a piece of writing consist in? In this vein, be able to explain suggestions 2-5 that Knopf details on p. 129—paying close attention to the ideas that a literature review is not an annotated bibliography but a cohesive paper, and that sources that share important commonalities should be grouped together.
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#### Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, Chapter 2: Membership (1983)

- Walzer makes two notable starting assumptions: (1) we—as members of political communities—are *already* deciding how to distribute membership to strangers, and (2) “we have all had the experience of accepting or rejecting strangers, and we have all had the experience of being accepted or rejected.”
    - Be able to articulate the significance of these two assumptions to his argument and his writing.
    - Hint regarding (1): the first is a logical fallacy. Be able to explain what kind of fallacy it is, and how this affects the strength of Walzer’s argument.
    - Hint regarding (2): the second constitutes a particular rhetorical appeal. Be able to explain what kind of appeal it is—ethos, pathos, or logos (review from your intro writing course)—and what its purpose is with regard to the aim of academic writing.
    - For a review of rhetorical appeals, see *Knowing Words* Chapter 4 (posted in assigned readings).
  - Be prepared to explain two rhetorical appeals Walzer makes in this chapter. For example, how are nations like neighborhoods, clubs, or families—and which analogy makes the most sense for Walzer?
  - Walzer’s central claim here is that political communities have the right to decide immigration policies (that is, that nations have the right of collective self-determination): be able to explain *at least three* of the reasons or pieces of evidence Walzer uses to demonstrate the truth of this claim.
  - Also, think through what the warrant for his argument might be. This is to say that you should be able to articulate what you think the bedrock justification is for his argument—and this will require you to identify some fundamental value or idea that Walzer could rest his entire argument on.
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**Justice Burger, *Plyer v. Doe* Dissenting Opinion (1981)**

- This dissenting opinion—which rejects the majority decision in *Plyer v. Doe*—offers a helpful contrast to Carens’ argument that migrants have a fundamental right to education regardless of their legal or illegal status.
  - For our purposes, be prepared to explain the central claim of this dissenting opinion and 2-3 reasons in support of the claim. Being able to answer the following questions should help you to reconstruct Justice Burger’s argument.
    - What does “suspect class” mean and why does Burger argue that “illegal aliens” do not constitute a suspect class.
    - Why does Burger believe that the right to education, while important, is not a “fundamental” right?
    - What is the significance of legal precedent to Burger’s argument?
    - What is one objection Carens might make against Burger’s analysis?
  - Also, be thinking about what the significance of precedent is to Burger’s writing: does this appeal to precedent make his writing more or less effective? Why?
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