Review of Literature
Quick research tips for building a robust root cause analysis

**Tip 1:** Narrow the focus of your research & refine keywords

Academia can get a bit jargony. First explore articles related to your focus and mission to pinpoint the terms most consistently used by the field. E.g. What you might call “youth-centered programming” is largely termed “Positive Youth Development” in the field. Using this phrase will return better results.

**Tip 2:** Use Google Scholar

Google Scholar has the most comprehensive repository of open-access sources.

**Tip 3:** Search for meta-analyses

A meta-analysis is a rigorous secondary analysis of primary research findings around a specific topic or phenomenon. Once you have narrowed your topic and identified relevant keywords, search for a meta-analysis of the most essential topic and phenomena you are investigating.

Ex.

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A meta-analysis of outdoor adventure programming with adolescents
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**Tip 4:** Search for program evaluations related to your mission/problem statement

**Tip 5:** Check out trusted research institutes, think tanks, and/or foundations that focus on issues related to your mission. They regularly publish or compile external reports on their websites. Some examples:

- Pew Research Center; Urban Institute; Annie E. Casey Foundation (child welfare focus)

**Tip 6:** Once you find a good article, report, meta-analysis, etc. use their citations to further enhance your root cause analysis.