

ORGANISING YOUR IDEAS – Option 1 Chronological

Stage 1.

Conduct a chronological survey of the literature (i.e. arrange the previous writings on this topic by the date they were published).

Example

Durrell (1976), de Courcy (1995), Johnson (1998) and Mazur (2000). This shows the development of thinking about this area over time.

Stage 2.

Select the most relevant materials and arrange according to the main issues.

Example

D... was a pioneer in this field and a good starting point for this research. M... is often quoted in scientific literature and her views are sometimes controversial and have inspired much further research. C... has completed the most recent research and her comprehensive view of the Melbourne Zoo is the most relevant to this project. J...’s research, although valuable, was less relevant to this project and may be excluded from the literature review. J...’s work may appear briefly elsewhere in the essay.