

**BUS 230: Business and Economics Research and Communication**  
**In-class Exercise: Dissecting a Literature Review**  
**Instructor: James Murray**

**Purpose:** A literature review is an essential component of the introduction to your research paper, whose purpose is to 1) introduce your reader to relevant background knowledge on the topic and 2) motivate your research question by identifying some aspect of the topic that is important to be answered. Importantly, a literature review should “tell a story.” That is, it should set up and motivate your particular research project. With each citation, you should be building up to what your research question is and why it is important. In this assignment you will dissect a literature review in a published paper and see with what purpose each citation is for, and describe the story surrounding the literature review.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- LO-4: Develop the ability to effectively communicate research results both written and orally.
- CBA LO-1B: Create well-written business reports

**Directions:**

1. Find the following article on living on campus and academic performance:

De Araujo, P., and Murray, J. (2010) “Estimating the Effects of Dormitory Living on Student Performance.” *Economics Bulletin*. 30(1).

*Estimating the effects of dormitory living on student performance*

2. Find the section, “Related Literature”
3. There are six paragraphs, each with a point. For each paragraph, summarize the point in a single sentence. Include in your answer what broader purpose each paragraph is working to achieve. These could be:
  - Providing relevant *background information* so that the reader has enough information to understand the issues, what is known, what is not known.
  - *Motivating* the present paper: Establishing why this subject is important or interesting and/or why more research in this area needs to be done.
  - Providing *justification* for methodological choices in the paper.
4. For each paragraph, find the pieces of evidence (this could be cited research) that support the point made in the paragraph. For cited literature, state the citation and what the paper found.