The Literature Review

1. Deciding on an idea: searching the literature

- summarizing what has been done, previous theories, etc.

EXAMPLE: Sex differences in Moral decision-making

Previous research:

1. Kohlberg's stages of Moral development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels and Stages</th>
<th>Reasons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preconventional</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Stage 1: pleasure/pain</td>
<td>Avoid Pain, not get caught</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Stage 2: Reciprocity/ cost-benefit</td>
<td>Get Rewards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conventional</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Stage 3 Good-Child</td>
<td>Gain acceptance/avoid disapproval</td>
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<td>- Stage 4 Law &amp; order</td>
<td>Follow rules/avoid censure</td>
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<td>Principled morality</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Stage 5 Social contract</td>
<td>promote society's welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Stage 6 Ethical principle</td>
<td>achieve justice/avoid self-condemnation</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Stage 7 Cosmic orientation</td>
<td>feel oneself part of cosmic direction/transcend social norm</td>
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Looked at moral reasoning. Judgments people make about courses of action. Used dilemmas that pit different moral principles against each other:

Heinz Example: man trying to buy drug for wife with cancer. Unscrupulous druggist will only sell it for 10 more than druggist paid for it. Much more than Heinz has or can get. Heinz is desperate and breaks into store, steals drug. Should Heinz have done that?

Why?

- Scoring based on reasons person gives, not decision itself.
-people continue moral development in steady progression, not all achieve stages 4-7. Many adults fail to reach Stage 5; few go beyond it.

-Problems:
- Higher stages are seen only in Western cultures and are associated with more education and greater verbal ability.

- Content of later stages seems subjective

- Can't predict moral reasoning beyond childhood

- fail to recognize that adult moral judgment may reflect different, but equally moral principles

2. Gilligan and Gender Differences
- argued that Kohlberg's original work used only males

- overlooked potential differences between habitual moral judgments of men and women

- claimed that women's moral development is based on standard of caring for others, progresses to self-realization, which is lower in Kohlberg Stage

- claimed that men base their reasonings on standard of justice

3. Do men and women really have unique styles of moral reasoning? Do they differ in stage of reasoning??

Most studies: No Difference in Stage Level, but greater use of appeals to empathy and conscience in women

What are alternate hypotheses?
- modes of moral judgment expression
- Use of hypothetical vs. real life dilemmas
  - Education
  - occupation
  - marriage
  - different social situations

Example experiments:

Gibbs, et al. Sex Differences in Expression of Moral Judgment
Boldizar, et al: gender, Life

2. Deciding on a specific hypothesis:

3. Choosing an experimental design: