



LITERATURE REVIEW

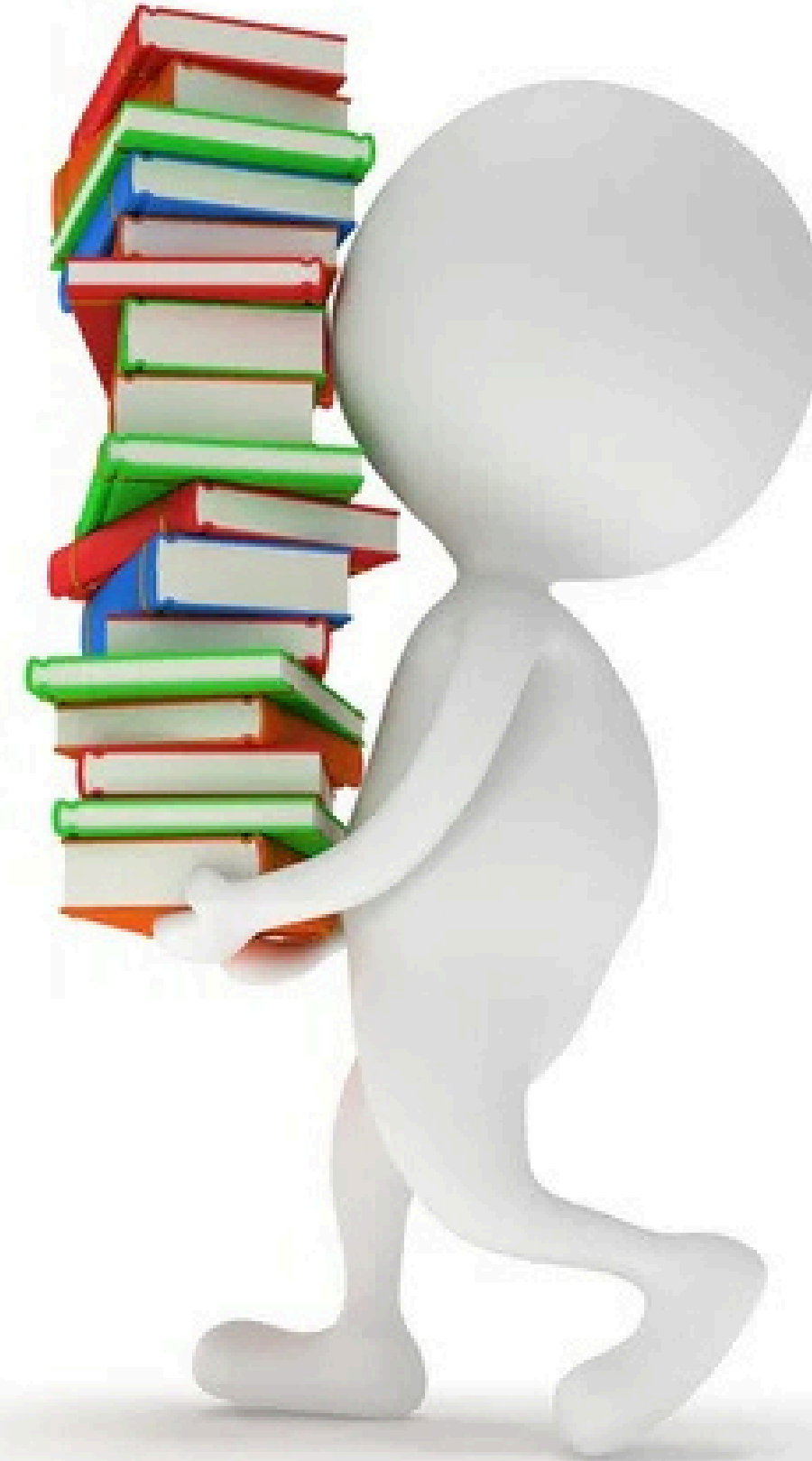
ACADEMIC RESEARCH
SCHOOL

Professional Writers

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● ● ● Literature review

A literature review is a comprehensive summary and critical analysis of existing research, theories, and findings related to a specific topic, aimed at identifying gaps and guiding the focus of a new study.



Contents of the literature review section

- Theoretical review
- Empirical review
- Literature summary and gaps



Theoretical review

Focuses on examining the existing theories, models, and frameworks related to a specific research topic and compares their strengths and weaknesses

STEPS

- Identify the theory
- Major assumptions the theory
- Strengths of the theory in relationship to the study
- Studies that have used the theory
- Weaknesses of the theory in relationship to the study
- Suggest another theory which addresses the weakness and repeat from step 1



● ● ● **See this example**



Empirical literature review

Is a detailed examination of research studies that rely on observed and measured data, analyzing their methodologies, findings, and contributions to a particular field of study.

It focuses on synthesizing evidence from experiments, surveys, case studies, or other empirical methods to identify patterns, gaps, and practical implications



Empirical literature review

STEPS

- Brain-storm/ Find possible indicators/ ideas
- Find sources pointing to each of the brainstormed Indicator
- Head to the abstract or the results section find out the results of the study
- Structure and format it in your paper



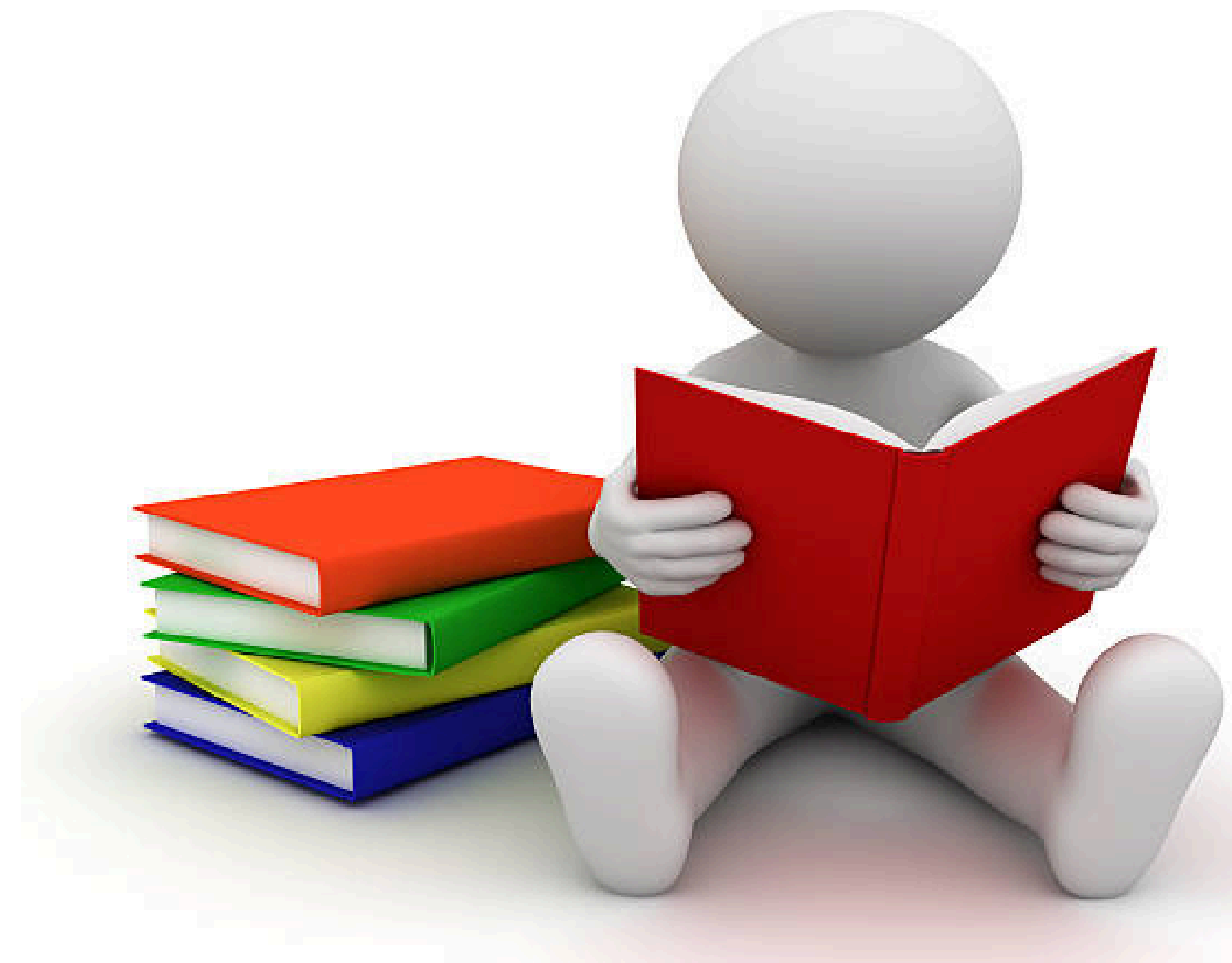
Contents of each literature paragraph

THE WHAT

- Author
- Year of study
- Topic of study
- Study area/country of study
- Results
- Synthesis (compare and contrast)

SO WHAT

- Critical analysis



Grab your computer and we do this practically



● ● ● How big should your literature review be

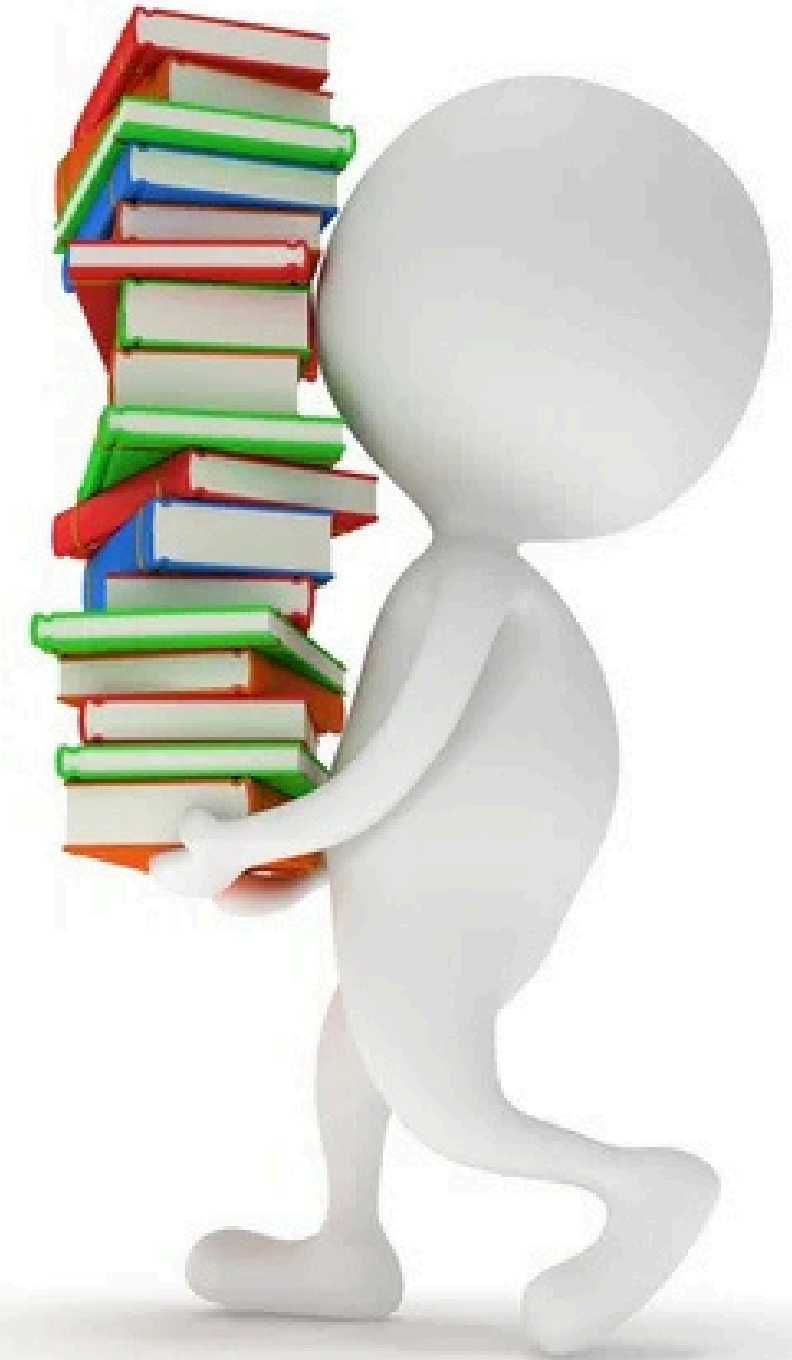
Depends on your research guidelines:

If not specified, you can have 6 literature points under each objective as a starting point



Literature summary & Gaps

- Overview of key findings from reviewed studies
- Identification of patterns or trends in the literature
- Highlighting inconsistencies or contradictions in findings
- Discussion of research gaps or unexplored areas
- Explanation of how the current study addresses these gaps



Q&A

Q&A

1. What is the primary purpose of a literature review?

- A) To summarize personal opinions
- B) To provide a comprehensive overview of existing research
- C) To present new experimental data
- D) To criticize authors and their works

Correct Answer: B) To provide a comprehensive overview of existing research



Q&A

2. When conducting a literature review, which source is considered the most credible?

- A) Blog posts
- B) Peer-reviewed journal articles
- C) Wikipedia entries
- D) Social media posts

Correct Answer: B) Peer-reviewed journal articles



Q&A

3. What is a common mistake to avoid when writing a literature review?

- A) Including too many sources
- B) Failing to synthesize information from different studies
- C) Providing clear citations for all sources
- D) Writing in a formal academic tone

Correct Answer: B) Failing to synthesize information from different studies



Q&A

4. Which of the following best describes synthesis in a literature review?

- A) Listing studies without any connections
- B) Comparing and contrasting findings from multiple sources
- C) Summarizing each study individually
- D) Ignoring conflicting results

Correct Answer: B) Comparing and contrasting findings from multiple sources



Q&A

5. In what way can you enhance the quality of your literature review?

- A) Using only recent studies
- B) Including diverse perspectives and methodologies
- C) Relying solely on secondary sources
- D) Avoiding any critical analysis

Correct Answer: B) Including diverse perspectives and methodologies



Q&A

6. What is the role of citations in a literature review?

- A) To fill space in the document
- B) To provide evidence for claims and give credit to original authors
- C) To make the document look more professional
- D) To confuse readers with excessive references

Correct Answer: B) To provide evidence for claims and give credit to original authors



Q&A

7. Which of the following is not a type of literature review in academic research?

- A) Conceptual
- B) Theoretical
- C) Empirical
- D) Narrative

Correct Answer: D) Narrative

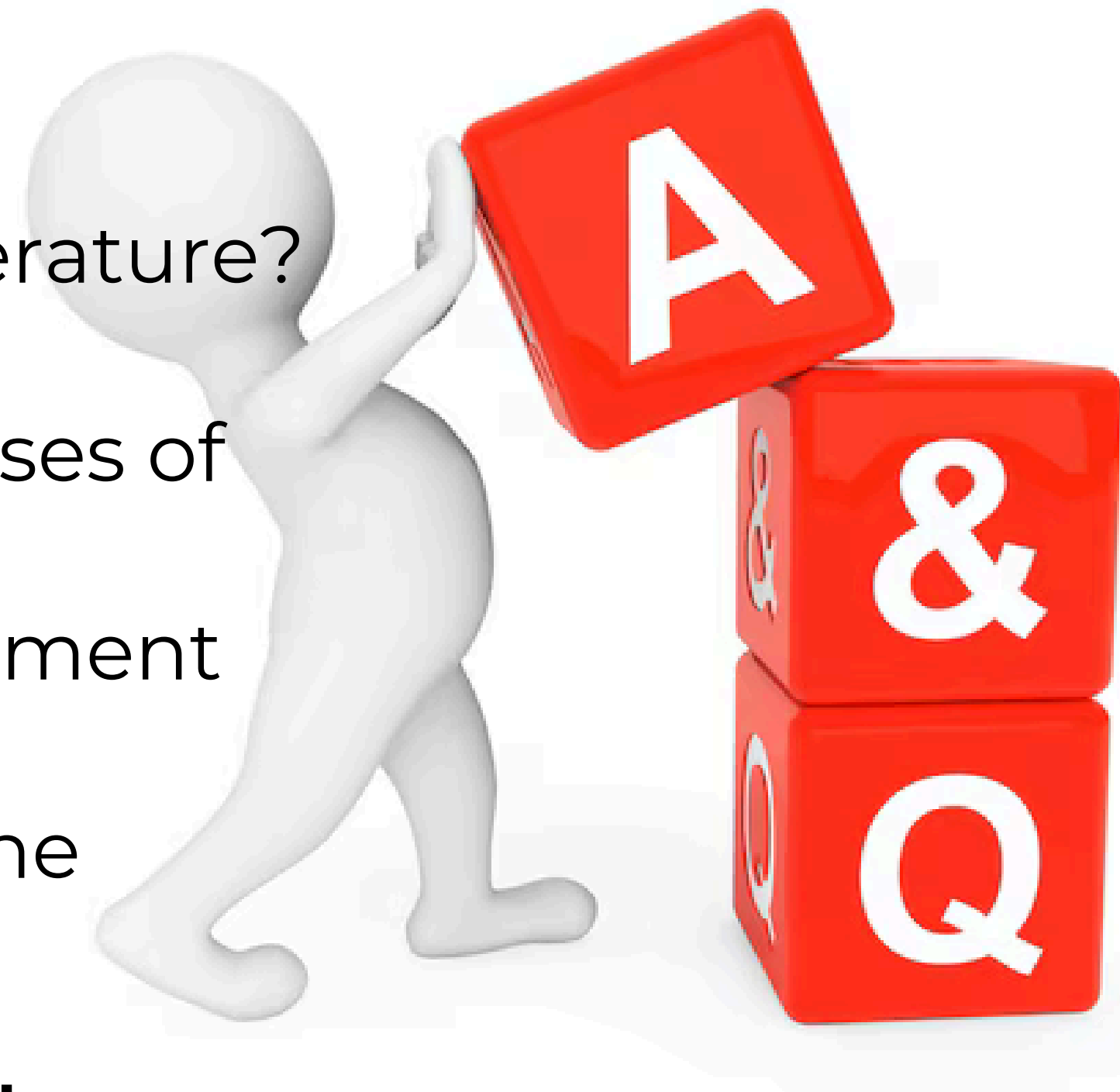


Q&A

8. What is meant by critical analysis of literature?

- A) Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of individual studies
- B) Summarizing all findings without judgment
- C) Listing studies in alphabetical order
- D) Providing a personal narrative about the research topic

Correct Answer: A) Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of individual studies



Q&A

9. What should be included in every literature piece?

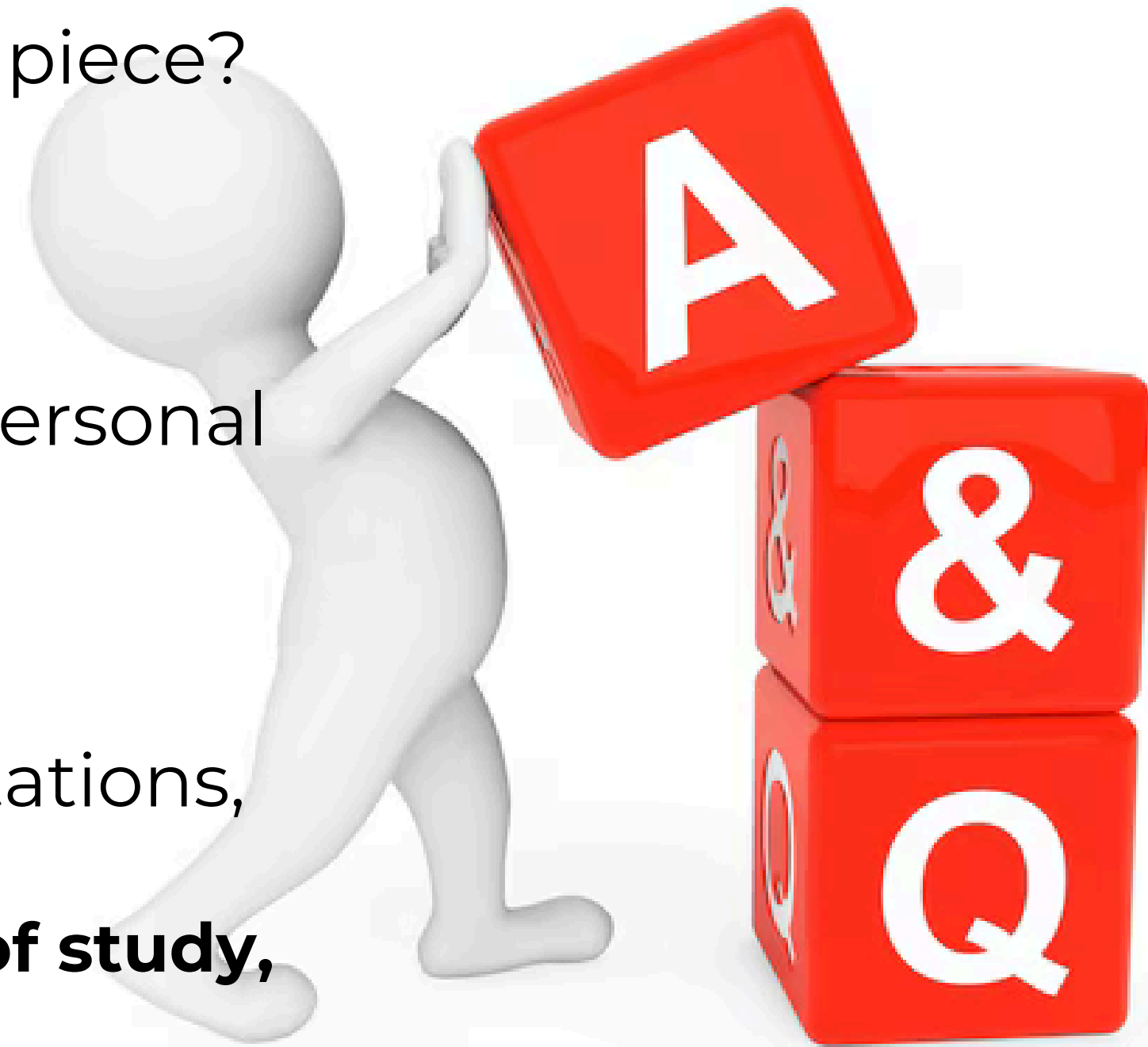
A) Author, year of study, topic of study, study area/country of study, results

B) Author, summary, conclusion, references, personal opinion

C) Title, abstract, introduction, methodology, bibliography

D) Author, funding source, methodology, limitations, future work

Correct Answer: A) Author, year of study, topic of study, study area/country of study, results

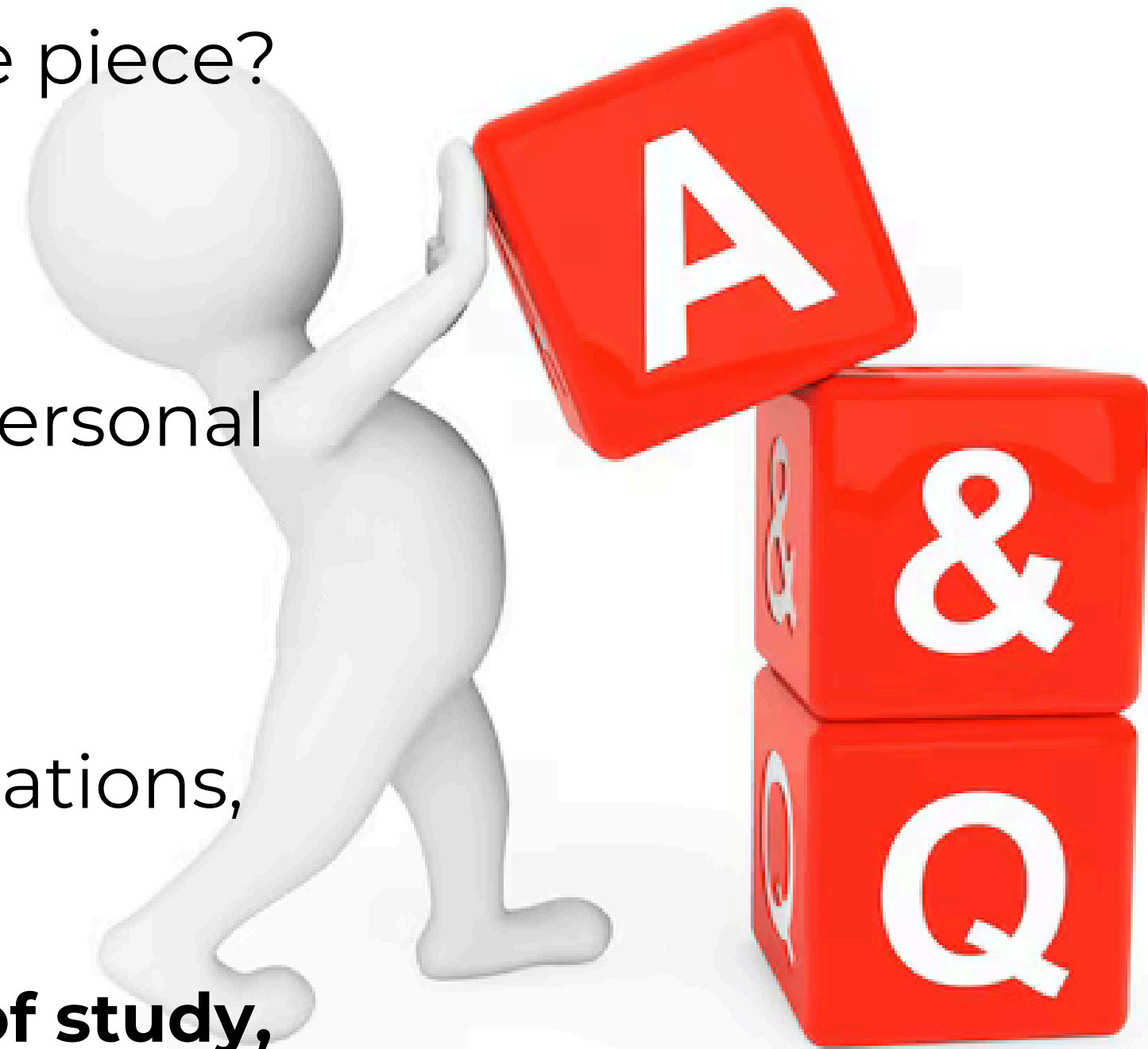


Q&A

10. What should be included in every literature piece?

- A) Author, year of study, topic of study, study area/country of study, results
- B) Author, summary, conclusion, references, personal opinion
- C) Title, abstract, introduction, methodology, bibliography
- D) Author, funding source, methodology, limitations, future work

Correct Answer: A) Author, year of study, topic of study, study area/country of study, results



Q&A

11. What is the primary benefit of conducting a systematic literature review?

- A) To include only recent studies
- B) To provide a biased perspective on the topic
- C) To identify gaps in existing research and inform future studies
- D) To summarize findings without critical evaluation

Correct Answer: C) To identify gaps in existing research and inform future studies





END

