

Mapping Your Lit Review

In chapter 5, we identify the first step of the literature review process as “listen widely” and extend Kenneth Burke’s (1941) parlor metaphor from one-to-many rooms (figure 5.2, reprinted below), encouraging you to think about this step as wandering from room to room and listening to multiple conversations.

As you explore different conversations in your lit review process, map them in the parlors (second page) with the following:

- **Topic:** What is each conversation about that’s relevant to your inquiry?
- **Citations:** Who are the most interesting or important researchers, scholars, thinkers?
- **Connection:** How does your inquiry connect to it? Your thinking here may be preliminary. Does this conversation help you connect your very specific topic to a larger issue that resonates across contexts? Does it help you define a key concept in your inquiry? Will you build on and complement existing work with your specific context, a different perspective or framework, or an alternative study design?

References

Burke, Kenneth. 1941. *The Philosophy of Literary Form*. University of California Press.

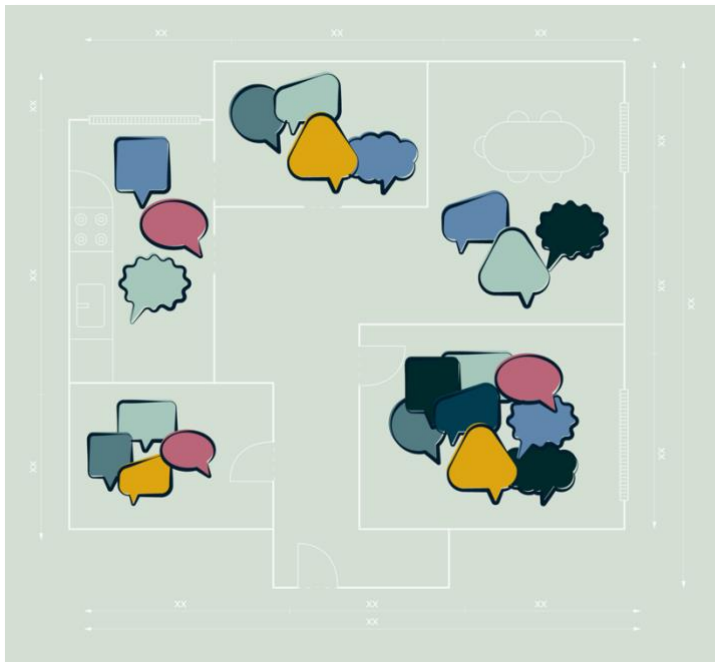


Figure 5.2. An extension of Burke’s parlor conversation metaphor to multiple, overlapping conversations. Conceptualization of Burke 1941.



CHAPTER 5

THE SOTL GUIDE

