



**WE ALL HAVE TO DO IT: PURPOSE AND PROCESS OF LITERATURE REVIEW**

Authors: Deborah Lafata, graduate research assistant and MPA candidate  
Anne Weiss, graduate research assistant and PhD candidate  
Rachel Thelin, project manager and senior policy analyst  
Sheila Suess Kennedy, director and professor

IU Center for Civic Literacy, School of Public and Environmental Affairs  
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

The Center for Civic Literacy (CCL) at IUPUI is a Signature Center Grant recipient. CCL is a multi-disciplinary research center established to examine the causes and dimensions of Americans' low levels of civic knowledge, and to investigate the consequences of personal, social, and political civic ignorance. CCL takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the causes and effects of deficits in civic literacy, while also examining best practices that combat civic deficits across sectors of society, including public affairs, science, education, business, and healthcare.

To further understand the nature of civic deficits, CCL must first define 'civic literacy' across these varied disciplinary contexts. This process requires thorough review and assessment of existing research that addresses various aspects of civic knowledge. CCL's poster will showcase the purpose, challenges, and lessons learned from engaging in an iterative process of a multi-disciplinary literature review. An additional goal of presenting CCL's literature review approach is to encourage attendees to consider how researchers frame, refine, and rework their understanding of a particular topic to strengthen their research objectives.