

## Situating Your Project within Larger Conversations: Doing a Lit Review

Lit reviews involve researching relevant previous work to establish your credibility, build on rather than simply repeat others' work, and demonstrate the need for and significance of your project. Lit reviews are ongoing and iterative. Consider the following questions as you begin:

- If others have asked your same question(s), how have they answered them? In what contexts? What did they find? How might your study complement theirs or fill in some gaps?
- If you're undertaking a "what works?" project, what does the research say about "what is?" What previous work helps you understand and not simply make assumptions about the context for your intervention?
- What theories of learning and findings from the learning sciences are relevant to your project?
- What related SoTL work would inform your project? What about disciplinary research?

The answers to these questions should guide your work.

### Research Guide

A SoTL Research Guide, developed by the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning in partnership with the Taylor Family Digital Library, will be available in 2016.