Rhetorical moves in the Background and Literature Review Chapter:

Move 1: Point out the most significant and relevant sources of information to date

> IQP: Read everything, but only include in your background/lit review those sources that teach you something significant about the causes, constraints and potential resources for addressing the problem.

Move 2: Identify consistent patterns and points of agreement about these causes, constraints and resources across these texts.

> IQP: Develop a grid of common points about these causes, constraints and resources. Organize your source notes underneath these points. Use these points as headings or topic sentences in your report. The review should not be a list of article summaries, but a discussion of key points about the problem, supported by sources.

Move 3: Identify inconsistencies and unresolved issues across these texts, to establish what is not known.

> IQP: Name these gaps and unresolved questions as the focus of your research. Revise your introduction to emphasize your unique contribution.

Move 4: Make sure all of your material is relevant to your project.

Note: Adapted from work done by Professor Lorraine Higgins, Director of the Center for Communication Across the Curriculum and by Professor John Trimbur.

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