

## Rationale Sample

Here is a brief example of a rationale for a meta-synthesis project. Remember to consider the following when working on your rationale:

- Why is a meta-synthesis important in your field at this point in time?
- Are there developments in the literature that warrant a meta-synthesis?

DISCUSSION OF  
RELEVANT RESEARCH  
STUDIES ON THE TOPIC

While past research has focused almost solely on the challenges women of color face in engineering environments, some work has been done to investigate the strategies to overcome isolation, lack of support, and doubts of competence. A few early studies (e.g., Tate & Linn, 2005) stressed the positive impact of support groups, such as friends or student support groups, with other underrepresented participants in engineering. ... Recent, solutions-focused research is increasingly surfacing in a variety of platforms (conferences, dissertations, journals, etc.) but there is—as yet—no overarching understanding of promising practices, or even what is known or not yet known in this area.

GAPS THAT YOUR  
PROPOSED STUDY  
ADDRESSES

CURRENT STATE OF  
THE RESEARCH TOPIC,  
WHAT IS KNOWN AND  
UNKNOWN