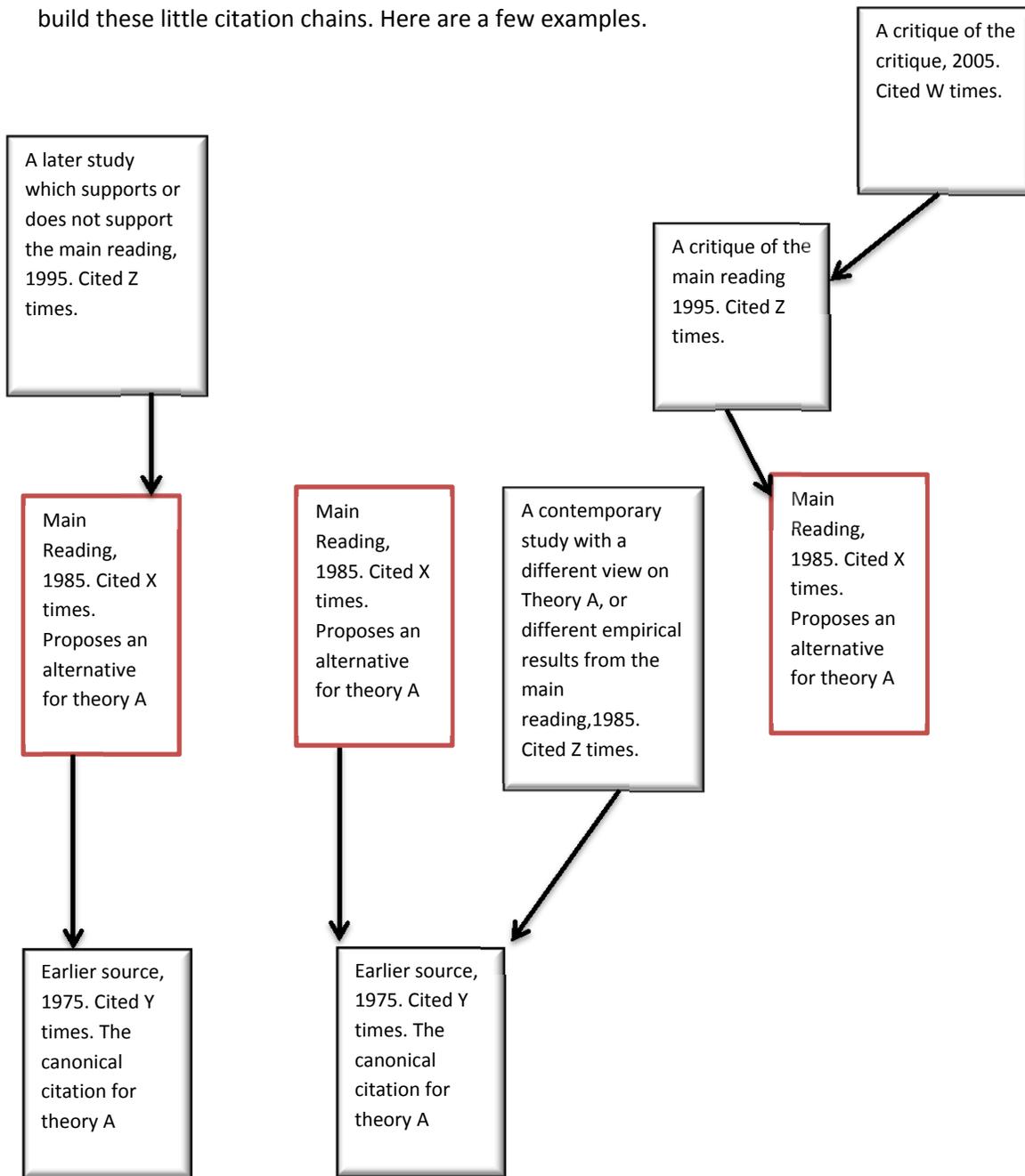


A few notes on how to analyze scholarly literature for Sociology 323, notes by Michael Rosenfeld.

In order to review literature in Soc 323, I want you think not only about the book or article assigned, but also about how the assigned book or article fits in to broader literatures and debates. That is how the better literature reviews in published books and journal articles work. So when you discuss a reading, you need also mention 2 other sources that are related by citation chains to the main source. Use Social Science Citation Index or Google Scholar to trace citations chains forward, and use the book or article's bibliography to trace citation chains backward to earlier work. There are lots of different ways for you to build these little citation chains. Here are a few examples.



What to keep in mind when reading empirical literature:

- * You need to think about the strengths and weaknesses of the data source that the author(s) employ. How might the strengths and weaknesses of the data shape the results?
- * If the work you are discussing employs data analysis, you also need to think about the analytic strategy of the data analysis. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the analysis? How convincingly are the results presented?
- * If different authors using different datasets have arrived at different empirical conclusions (this is where your citation network comes in), how do you adjudicate between the different findings?