



Helpful information for writing a thesis

Working title

Please use a short and concise title, using no more than 15 words. Focus on your broader research question, and state what you want to achieve.

Participants

List all people that are necessary for your work to succeed. Make sure that all of these agree with your time schedule.

Background

Please describe in 2-8 lines why your work is timely and necessary (you may wish to consider some or all of the following: novelty, contribution to science, policy/societal relevance etc).

Key supporting concepts

State clearly and concisely (5-10 lines) what you consider to be the most relevant scientific concepts (can be important for methodological, empirical or theoretical reasons), relating to your study. Start broad (e.g. broad theoretical frameworks) and end specific (e.g. specific ideas/methods that relate to your research).

Main references

Give 3(-5) references which are vital for your work

Hypotheses/Research questions

Clearly state 1-4(5) hypotheses or research questions. Make sure that they are in a logical order, and try to be as clear and concise as possible.

Study area (case study paper)

Describe your study area or region or topic with 2-6 lines, stating only facts that are relevant for your work.

Search string, time scale etc. (review paper)

Note which literature shall be included in your study; which database you would like to use; for which time scale you will collect your data; how will your search query look like

Study design (case study paper)

State clearly how many samples you will make, and how they will be selected. Will you make single samples, or replicates? Note that a site is an area, which can contain several plots. Plots can have sub-plots, which are not independent from each other. State clearly which data are to be collected (either in a table or a comma separated list).

Variables of the content analysis (review paper)

Your data collection is based on variables, so write down a list on how these variables look like and how they are valued. Best way: list all variables and explanations/definitions in a table.



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UNIVERSITÄT LÜNEBURG

Lab work

Note all analyses you will make in the lab, a library or another academic institution.

Analyses

Clearly state all tests and analytical methods that are necessary to analysis your data. Avoid giving too many details that can be found in textbooks.

Potential pitfalls

State all problems which you may encounter during your work, and how you can tackle them.

Time frame

Clearly state deliverables and when these will be achieved. Be realistic.