

Aims and Objectives

If someone asked you what your thesis is about this is what you’d say.

Aim: Scope: Research questions: Gap: Main argument: Contribution:

1 Acknowledgements

Recognize those who contributed to your research.

How did your supervisors and others contribute?
Do you need to thank those who provided help during data-collection, including participants?
Did anyone provide pastoral support, including friends and family?
Did you have any funding bodies?
Were any professionals involved, including typists, transcribers, or proofreaders?

2 Abstract

Describes what happened during the research.

What is the reason for writing the thesis?
What are the current approaches and gaps in the literature?
What are your research question(s) and aims?
Which methodology have you used?
What are the main findings?
What are the main conclusions and implications?

3 Introduction

What is your original contribution? Why should the examiner care about your research?

What is the thesis problem statement?
What do you (not) hope to achieve?
What are the research questions and hypotheses?
What are your epistemological and ontological positions?
What is your contribution to the field?
How is the thesis laid out?

4 Literature Review

What is the case for the research?

What are the most important authors, findings, concepts, schools, debates and hypotheses?
What gaps exist in the literature?
Are these gaps methodological, conceptual or epistemological?
How does your thesis fill these gaps?

5 Theoretical Framework

The scaffolding upon which your thesis is built. Think of the theoretical framework like a toolbox that you build from a whole range of available tools.

What theoretical concepts are used in the research?
What hypotheses, if any, are you using?
Why have you chosen this theory?
What are the implications of using this theory?
How does the theory relate to the existing literature, your problem statement and your epistemological and ontological positions?
How has this theory been applied by others in similar contexts? What can you learn from them and how do you differ?
How do you apply the theory and measure the concepts (with reference to the literature review/problem statement)?
What is the relationship between the various elements and concepts within the model? Can you depict this visually?

6 Methodology

Who what why when and how?

What did you did do to achieve the research aims?
Why did you choose this particular approach over others?
How does it relate to your epistemological and ontological positions?
What tools did you use to collect data and why? What are the implications?
When did you collect data, and from whom?
What tools have you used to analyze the data and why? What are the implications?
Are there ethical considerations to take into account?

7 Empirical Chapters

Discuss and present your findings in a factual way.

What are the results of your investigations?
How do the findings relate to previous studies?
Was there anything surprising or that didn’t work out as planned?
Are there any themes or categories that emerge from the data?

8 Discussion Chapter

Discuss and relate your findings to the literature review and theory framework.
Do so in such a way that a layperson can understand your argument.

How do the findings relate to the theory and methods discussed previously?
Why you have reached particular conclusions?
How do your findings relate to the gaps in the literature you identified earlier?
What implications do the findings have for the discipline and for existing understanding?
How do the findings relate to your research questions, aims and objectives?

9 Conclusion

Summarize what you did, what you found and what the implications are.

What are your answers to the research questions?
How have you addressed your aims and objectives?
What is the significance and implications of your findings?
What contribution has the study made?
What are the limitations of the study and questions for further research?

10 References

All references cited in the text must appear in the reference list.

Do your references follow your university’s house style?
Are all references contained in the text listed in the bibliography, and *vice versa*.

Created by Dr. Maximillian Lemprière.

