



Academic writing 101

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Contents

- Some tips concerning...
 - Structure and contents
 - References

Tips concerning structure and contents



Order of contents

Final order

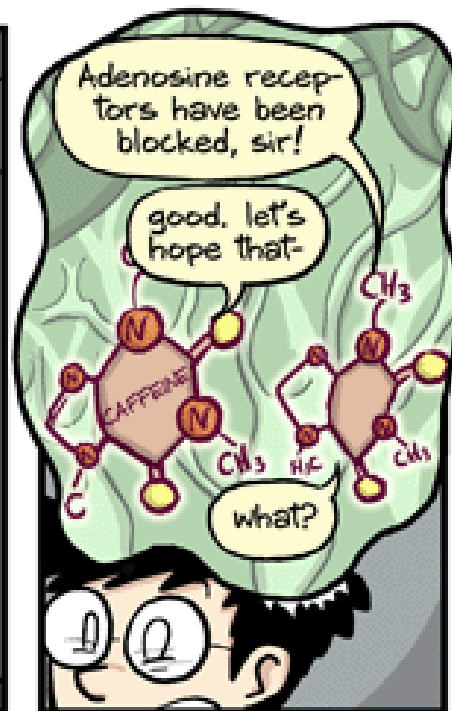
- Title
- Abstract
- Table of contents
- Lists
- Introduction
- Corpus
 - Methods and materials
 - Results
 - Discussion
 - Conclusion
- References
- Addenda

Working order

- Corpus:
 - Methods and materials
 - Results
- Introduction
- Corpus:
 - Discussion
 - Conclusion
- Abstract
- Title

Corpus: Methods and materials

- Accuracy!
- Relevant results
 - → Research design
 - → Method of gathering and analyzing data
 - → Steps of experiments



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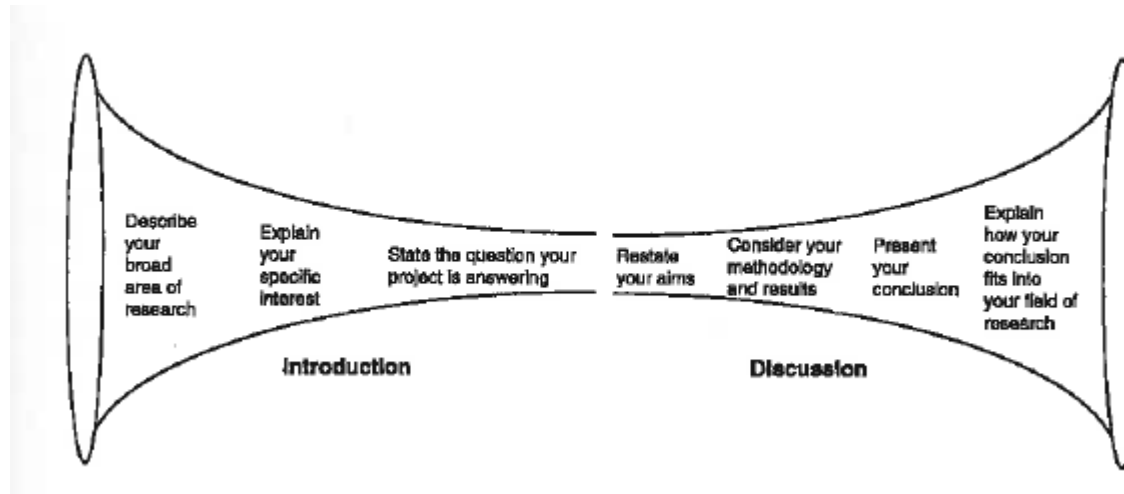
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Corpus: Results

- Start with most simple, solid basic results
- Do not include
 - irrelevant experiments or results
 - how and why of results

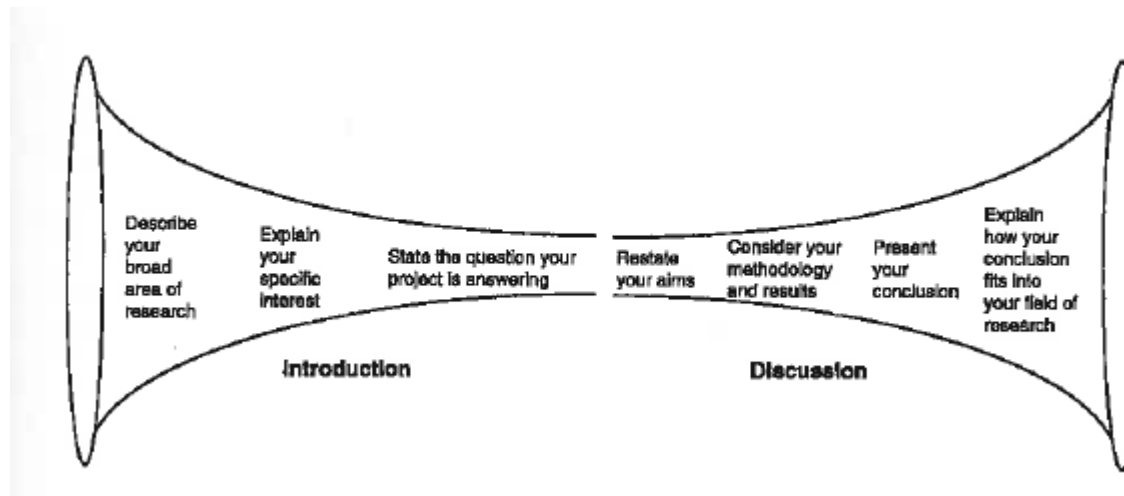
Introduction

- Background of research
 - Narrow down to specific research problem
 - Short introduction to results
-
- Second chapter: literature search



Corpus: Discussion

- How do these experimental findings meet your research goals?
- Relevance for field of research
- Conclusions for the broader field
- Future research



Corpus: Conclusions

- Do not add new information
- Evaluate your work critically
- Refer to the research questions in your introduction

Abstract

- Short account of your project
 - NO references
 - About 1 page
 - No introduction
 - Stands alone

An average master's thesis contains...

- 20-30% Introduction + Literature search
- 10-20% Methods and Materials
- 35-45% Results
- 20-25% Discussion + Conclusion

Tips concerning references



The importance of referring correctly

- Reference **any** information that you have used that is in the public domain!
 - This means
 - Quotes
 - Trail of thought
 - Ideas
 - Tables or figures
 - ...
 - NOT only literal pieces of text or formulae

The importance of referring correctly

- The dangers of plagiarism:
 - Examiners often know the literature better than you do
 - → they are likely to recognise plagiarised work
 - Can result in: failure of master's thesis and related courses, in extreme cases even expulsion

How to refer correctly

- Reader has to be able to find the works that you consulted
- → Must be included:
 - Author(s)
 - Book or article title
 - Date of publication
 - Place of publication
 - Website URL/Journal title
 - Pages of consulted article

How to refer correctly

- Refer to article/book as close to the subject in the text as possible
- If you use an exact quotation, use “”

Some examples

- Book:
 - Doumont, J., *Trees, maps and theorems: effective communication for rational minds*, 2009, Kraainem.
- Article:
 - Doumont, J., 'Trees, maps and theorems: effective communication for rational minds', *International Journal of Engineering Education*, 17 (2009), 33-83.
- Website:
 - Doumont, J., *Trees, maps and theorems: effective communication for rational minds*, www.treesmapsandtheorems.com, last update 15.02.2013.

References

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- De Wachter, L.; Verrote; L., Broeckx, L.; Cuppens, L.; Potargent, J.; Van Brussel, I.; Verlinden, E., *Taal @ Hoger Onderwijs*, Leuven, 2010
- Ebel, H.F.; Bliefert, C.; Russey, W.E., *The art of scientific writing*, Weinheim, 1987
- Holtom, D.; *Enjoy writing your master's thesis*, Singapore, 1999

For further information

- Holtom, D.; *Enjoy writing your master's thesis*, Singapore, 1999
- PPT will be placed on Toledo
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