Add here the title of your Final Essay

University of Oulu

Faculty of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering

Advanced Topics in HCD

Course Final Essay

First name Last name

Date

Abstract

Write in this section an overview of the final essay you have conducted. Abstract should have between 200 - 400 words and 2-4 paragraphs. Do not add references in the abstract. At the end of the abstract, you can add keywords that represent the main concepts and issues covered in your essay.

This document template guides you how to write, structure, and format the essay. Read this document first, before starting writing the essay.

Keywords

first keyword, second keyword, other keywords

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# Introduction

Use this template to write the final essay.[[1]](#footnote-1) The name of the sections should be updated according to the topics / issues covered in your essay. There are three possibilities to make the essay for this course, and you have to choose one of them. These are the following:

**Final Essay Type 1:** Find, describe and analyze the state-of-the art research on one specific topic in HCD, such as a particular development context, technology, method or process, reflecting the latest research articles on the topic to the seminal articles on the topic and HCD.

**Final Essay Type 2:** Identify an emerging new topic in HCD research and practice, backing it up with references to latest research papers.

**Final Essay Type 3:** Describe some aspect(s) of your personal digital ecology and reflect its characteristics, history, suitability, flaws and redesign challenges using your own insights and four (4) freely chosen research papers given for the lectures and six (6) additional research papers which you find and choose yourself.

In Introduction you should have:

* motivation of your study (add references)
* description of the aim or research question
* definitions of the core concepts (add references)
* brief summary of the state of the art of the topic: earlier knowledge about the topic (add references)
  + lenses for study: conceptual models, research approaches, methods and techniques used for studying the topic (add references)
  + empirical studies: findings from earlier studies (add references).

# Requirements

## Contents

**The structure of the essay should follow this template; the name of the sections should reflect the contents of the essay.**

* Include between 10 to 20 relevant scientific references
* Introduce the research topic, motivate it and state the aim of the essay or the research question
* Define the core concepts
* Describe the state of the art related to the topic (see Introduction)
  + Identify and describe at least one **theory** related to the topic
  + Identify and describe at least one **empirical study** related to the topic
  + Identify and describe at least one **research method** utilized in the literature related to the topic
* Include significant as well as recent sources (references)
* Summarize the results and discuss their implications for research and practice, limitations and paths for future work

## Formatting

Use this template as a guide to structure and write the essay.

* Do not change the fonts, paragraph formats, page format.
* Do not use bullets and lists, unless strictly necessary.
* Use APA style for the references in the text and in the list. See examples of referencing here <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/06/>
* For formatting the headings, use Heading 1, Heading 2, Heading 3, etc. styles. Name the sections according to their contents.
* Do not start new pages with every new section. A new section can start immediately after the previous section without page break as in this document.

## About the length of the essay

The essay should be around 4000 words without including the references, and the upper limit should be about 5000 words without including the references.

If you have a lot of text that does not fit into this essay, you can include it in the thesis or in a different report that you develop and elaborate further.

# Section 1

If you have subsections, add an introductory text under the higher level heading before you add the first subsection (as illustrated here) to describe the contents of the sub-sections. Subsections are used to group the concepts/issues you describe into unifying themes.

## Add title according to the contents of the sub-section

For example, you can have a subsection for each core concept.

## Add title according to the contents of the sub-section

Here you can define another core concept and related work. Do not separate the text into subsections if there is not enough information to be presented in different subsections. Group the information meaningfully into subsections to distinguish different ideas and group similar themes under the same subsection.

You can distinguish between different concepts or issues by using **bold** **font** instead of subsections, if there is not enough text to be separated into subsections.

# Formatting (e.g., Tables, figures, lists, citations)

If you add tables, they must be numbered and named by a title. See example below:

**Table 1**. The heading styles in the theses.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Font Style | Size | NB |
| Heading0 | Arial | 18 | No numbering |
| Heading1 | Arial | 18 |  |
| Heading2 | Arial | 14 |  |
| Heading3 | Arial | 14 |  |
| Heading4 | Arial, italics | 12 | No numbering, not recommended |
| Body text | Times Roman | 12 |  |
| Table title | Arial | 10 | Note the bolding |
| Figure title | Arial | 10 | Note the bolding |

If you add pictures (images, charts, models), they must be numbered and named by a title. See example below.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Figure 1.** Example of a screen caption. In case of a long title it is indented by 1.7 cm from the left margin.

For tables and charts that you use from other sources, you have to re-do (adapt) the original tables/charts whenever possible, and you have to cite the original source. It is not allowed to copy pictures/tables from external sources without asking permission from the copyright holders and without properly referencing them.

Every picture and table must be referred in the text (e.g., The picture in Figure 1 is pasted into a table to keep it aligned with the text).

## Direct citations

You can add direct citations but only if you cannot reproduce with own words the ideas/definitions/statements in the original text. Direct citations are therefore used sparingly, only when the initial meaning can be distorted or cannot be fully conceived if paraphrased. Always use quotation marks (“example”) and include the reference. Longer citations (e.g., a paragraph) should be separated by using different font and indentation.

See more detailed advice with examples:

In-text citations: the basics <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>

# Use of References

The use of references includes both referring in the text and building the list of references using the APA style.

For guidelines on references see the template for the Master Thesis: <https://noppa.oulu.fi/noppa/kurssi/813627s/materiaali> and the guidelines on APA style <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/> .

The list of references is presented alphabetically according to the APA reference style.

## Use of webpages as references

Do not use webpages as references for literature review, unless strictly necessary. If you use them, do not embed the links into the text as in this document, but use the APA referencing style for webpages (see Nonperiodical Web Document or Report on https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/).

# Discussion

In this section, discuss the findings of your essay study. Have you find a gap in literature or interesting topics to be further researched? Discuss implications for research and practice, future work ideas coming up from the related work you reviewed, and limitations of the essay study. Add references.

# Conclusion

Here summarize the findings of you literature review.

# Evaluation criteria

Maximum points = 50 p. See table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Points** |
| Introduction (motivation, background, aim of study or research question, references) | 0-5 |
| Theory (core concepts, theories in previous research, references) | 0-10 |
| Related empirical research (previous research, references) | 0-10 |
| Related research methods (previous research, references) | 0-10 |
| Significance of the findings, interpretations, quality of discussion and insight | 0-10 |
| Scientific reporting and presentation (formatting, reference usage and style, readability, clarity, scientific writing) | 0-5 |
| Total | 0-50 |

# References

Add here the list of references. All references in the list should be referred in the text. The list of references should be in alphabetical order.

Some examples of references in APA style:

Journal articles:

Borrego, M., Douglas, E. P., & Amelink, C. T. (2009). Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research methods in engineering education. *Journal of Engineering Education,* 98(1), 53-66.

Klein, H. K., & Myers, M. D. (1999). A set of principles for conducting and evaluating interpretive field studies in information systems. *MIS Quarterly, 23*(1), 67-94.

Peffers, K., Tuunanen, T., Rothenberger, M. A., & Chatterjee, S. (2007). A design science research methodology for information systems research. *Journal of Management Information Systems*, *24*(3), 45-77.

Books in other language than English:

Kinnunen, M., & Löytty, O. (2002). *Tieteellinen kirjoittaminen.* Tampere: Vastapaino. (In Finnish)

Viljanen, E. (1986). *Tutkielman tekeminen*. Helsinki: Otava. (In Finnish)

Books:

Järvinen, P. (2001). *On research methods*. Tampere: Opinpajan kirja.

Swales, J.M., & Feak, C.B. (1996). *Academic writing for graduate students. Essential tasks and skills.* Michigan: University of Michigan Press.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Technical reports, theses:

Kitchenham, B. (2004). *Procedures for performing systematic reviews.* Technical Report.TK/SE-0401, Keele University, and Technical Report 0400011T.1, NICTA.

Webpages or articles posted on webpages:

Lee, C. (n.d.). The proper use of et al. in APA style. Retrieved June 19, 2014 from http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/11/the-proper-use-of-et-al-in-apa-style.html

1. This template is based on the template for Master theses (see Formal Instructions as a template <https://noppa.oulu.fi/noppa/kurssi/813627s/materiaali>).

   You can use footnotes in your report if necessary to add more details or clarifications. Do not use footnotes for adding references, instead use APA style for references. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)