

Lecture 8 : Dissertation/Thesis

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General

- Follow the institutions' template
- Beware of the margin size
- Single or two-sided
- >100 pages
- Contribute new theories and information to the existing literature in the respective research field
- Tackle a relevant research problem in different perspectives, emphasizing on depth instead of diversity
- Also a formal publication and can be checked online

General

- Abstract
- Acknowledgement
- Prepare an outline first
 - Arrange the independent chapters in a logical order
 - Background/motivation/literature review
 - Chapters
 - Discussion
 - Conclusion and future work
 - References
 - Curriculum vitae
- Combinations of multiple papers
 - Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussions and Conclusions

Other tips

- Check plagiarism – use quotation if needed
 - **“MLA is a fabulous style” (Johnson 37)**
 - Over the course of time Rembrandt’s work began to change and focus on different themes, but as Wallace points out:
"Rembrandt’s great gift as an etcher lay in preserving a sense of spontaneity while scrupulously attending to close detail" (142).
 - As Wallace states, “Rembrandt’s great gift as an etcher lay in preserving a sense of spontaneity while scrupulously attending to close detail” (142).
- Avoid passive tense, unnecessary adjectives and adverbs
- Avoid jargon, especially in Abstract

Other tips

- Be consistent on everything
 - abbreviations, spellings (e.g., analyse or analyze), terminology, with hyphen or not, capitalize or not, with space or not
- Get other students proofread
- Set a timeline
- Edit → proofread → edit → crosscheck
- Keep reporting the progress with your advisor

Good luck on your PhD endeavor!