

Structure of the body of the text

The order in the body of the text can vary. Discuss your solution with your supervisor.

Below you can find examples of different types of thesis structures. More descriptive headings shall be used in the report instead of these generally applicable headings. Subheadings can be used when necessary.

PROJECT (an example)

1 Introduction

2 Definition of project, background and operational environment

- project assignment
- project definition and risks (may also be at points 5)

3 Theoretical (and other) starting points of project

4 Purpose and objectives of project

5 Project planning

- Tasks included in the project (listed or described)
- Phases, schedule and resourcing of project
- Self-evaluation plan
- (Project definition and risks)

6 Project implementation and results (NB: spell it out!)

- what was done during the project and what are the concrete results
- some of the results may be presented in the appendix

7 Evaluation and conclusion of project

- evaluation of project and resource management
- compliance with schedule
- utilisation and evaluation of results
- project continuation and central new ideas

DEVELOPMENT WORK (an example)

1 Introduction

2 Needs analysis or description of current situation

3 Development task and objectives

4 Selection and description of development method

5 Description of development process (spell it out, be logical)

6 Description of results

7 Evaluation

- reliability and usability
- transferability
- possible evaluation plan

THESIS FOCUSING ON RESEARCH (an example)

1 Introduction

2 Theoretical basis/framework, etc

3 Purpose and objectives of thesis

4 Implementation of thesis process

- method, data, data collection method and data analysis

5 Results

6 Conclusions and discussion

- consideration of results
- ethical issues
- discussion of reliability

Take advantage of the layout examples LINKKI?

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE CONTENT

INTRODUCTION

The introduction shall convince the reader of the significant and interesting nature of the thesis. It provides the reader with tentative information on the field to be covered: the author describes the topic, the grounds for choosing it, and explains the current and significant nature of the topic.

The objectives and progress of the work shall be described in general terms in the introduction. The objectives (e.g. precise research questions or development tasks) shall be discussed in more detail later on.

THEORETICAL BASIS

The theoretical basis of the thesis shall build on previous information, studies or theories.

The compiled theoretical basis tells the reader from which perspective the task is examined and which previous information the thesis is based on. In development tasks and projects, the theoretical basis shall also include a description of the operational environment and its current condition.

The more precisely the area has been defined, the easier it is to decide what kind of information is relevant for the thesis and which irrelevant information can be discarded. Include sources essentially related to the topic only.

In order to take full advantage of the theoretical basis and other background information, start compiling and writing it down in good time – i.e. before you take actual steps related to your thesis (measurement, survey, mural, training module, publication layout etc.).

In the framework, the author shall describe and analyse the central concepts used in the thesis so that the reader understands their meaning and interrelationship. The definitions shall be presented by way of source references (Vilkkä 2005, 60). It is natural to define non-central concepts in their context as they are mentioned for the first time.

NB: A separate "theoretical chapter" is not always necessary. The framework, background material and other previous information and related evaluations etc. can also be incorporated into the description of the project or other type of work. This is one way to better avoid the typical problem of theory and practice not "communicating" with each other, i.e. of being unconnected.

IMPLEMENTATION

Tell about the implementation of the work. In a thesis focusing on research, describe the method, target group and data, as well as the way in which you have analysed the data. In a development project, describe the operational environment, progress and analytical methods. See also "Theoretical basis" and "Results" – this too does not have to be a separate chapter. See "Basic guidance for a thesis" for more tips.

RESULTS

In the Results section, the author shall present the detailed research results or the output of the project or development tasks. The author shall use the results for responding to the research problems or development tasks he or she has set for his or her thesis.

In project-type theses, it might be appropriate to present part of the results in appendices; for example, a guidebook prepared by the student is included as an appendix.

In project work, it is important to describe the entire work and learning process: how specific solutions were made, what options were available and why a specific alternative was selected. In the project description, it is also important to tell about mistaken solutions and to learn from them.

CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

The examination of the outcome – research results, product, service etc. – is an important part of the thesis report. In the Conclusions and Discussion section, the author shall examine the content and results/output in relation to the objectives or development tasks. Furthermore, he or she shall discuss how the results will be utilised or applied in future, and present development ideas or objects, further measures to be taken or further topics to be studied.