

# Thesis Writing

This tip sheets gives examples of what you could potentially include in the sections of your thesis. Consult with your supervisor about specific requirements for your discipline.

## Potential thesis structure

Option 1 (Empirical/experimental)	Option 2 (Analytical study)
Introduction	Introduction
Literature Review	Chapter 1
Methodology	Chapter 2
Results	Chapter 3
Discussion	Chapter 4
Conclusion/recommendations	Conclusion

### Introduction

- *Problem statement*: including topic background and current knowledge
- *Outline of aim*: usually linked to gaps in the field
- *Scope*: clarify the limitations/parameters of your study
- *Overview of thesis*: including list/description of chapters

#### Problem Statement

- Identifies a specific problem (that you aim to solve/address)
- Can justify why that problem is worth researching

#### Aim:

- You've just identified the problem – your aim is to solve it
- It should be singular – you must identify only one aim
- Your conclusion (in the last chapter) must respond to it

#### Scope:

- Includes research and theoretical parameters

#### Overview of thesis:

- Should logically follow on from statement of problem/aim
- State what each chapter will explore

### Literature review

The literature review is a key chapter for analysing and evaluating the existing published literature in your field. For more information, see the PDF and/or attend the workshop titled *Writing the Literature Review*.

## Methodology

- Reference/discussion of previous studies to formulate hypothesis/research question (refer to Lit. review)
- Identify your stance on the topic or the information you will be analysing (social sciences/humanities)
- Review available methods and present reasons for selecting them
- Describe how and why you chose your research method and explain in detail what you did to conduct our research

## Results

- Outline of what you found
- The facts of your research

## Discussion

- Overview of the significant findings of the study; comments on the significance of the results in response to the research problem
- Interpretation of results and explanation of what the results mean
- Places results within the context of your field/compares to existing literature or research consideration of the findings in light of existing research
- Highlights the implications or contributions of the study (in theory and/or practice) to the field of research
- Acknowledges the limitations of the findings/study (referring to scope and research procedures) that may affect the validity of generalisability of the results
- Identifies and recommends possibility/need for future research

## Conclusion

Includes:

- Highlight the significant of your findings/results
- Make suggestions for future research
- Explain how you fulfilled your research aim
- Links to introduction and discussion sections

## For more information or support

Book in for a workshop and/or individual consultation:

- <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support/academic/workshops-consultations-advisors>
- 02 4921 5350 or email [learningsupport@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:learningsupport@newcastle.edu.au)