

Writing a Successful Part II Thesis

Louise Baron BSc PhD

Successful?

- Rigour in evidence and argument
- Clarity in evidence and argument
- Correct presentation and attention to detail
- Written as economically as possible, within the strict page limit

Unsuccessful?


- Shallow, narrow approach
- Poor understanding and little sign of thought in selection of material or structure of report
- Conclusions may be lacking or flawed

Project Report

- 1. Presentation and organisation**
Structure and presentation, including figures, diagrams and tables.
- 2. Quality and clarity**
Readability, accuracy and clarity of arguments. Grammar, spelling and syntax.
- 3. Background and Context**
The science that underpins the work. The scientific context, aims and significance of the project, including knowledge of previous work. Quality of literature survey.
- 4. Experimental**
Clear description of the experimental work at an appropriate level of detail.
- 5. Analysis and interpretation**
Scientific accuracy, analysis and interpretation of results.
- 6. Conclusions and future work**
Accuracy and logic of conclusions, plans for future work.

Rigour


Evidence



Argument

- Understand formal logic
- Avoid common fallacies
- How sound is the evidence?
- Anticipate the viva

Clarity



Less reagent was used.

- Be specific!
- Be precise!

Presentation



- Use the template!
- Attention to detail
- Make the figures look professional

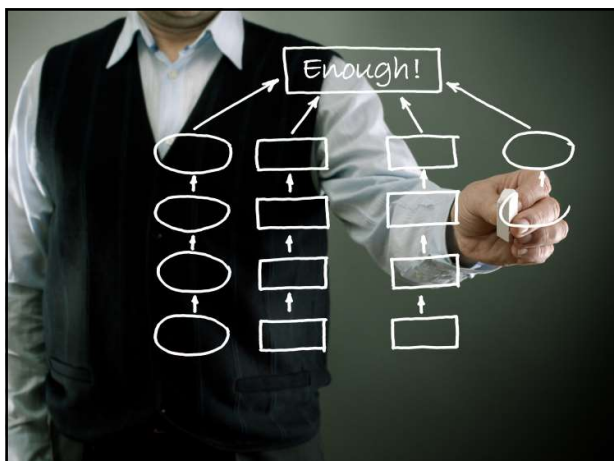
Economy

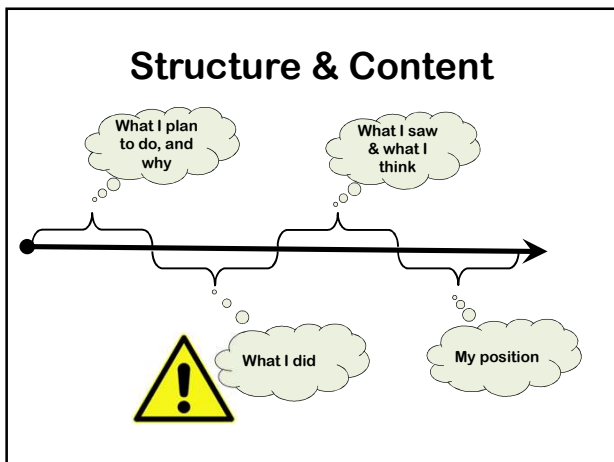


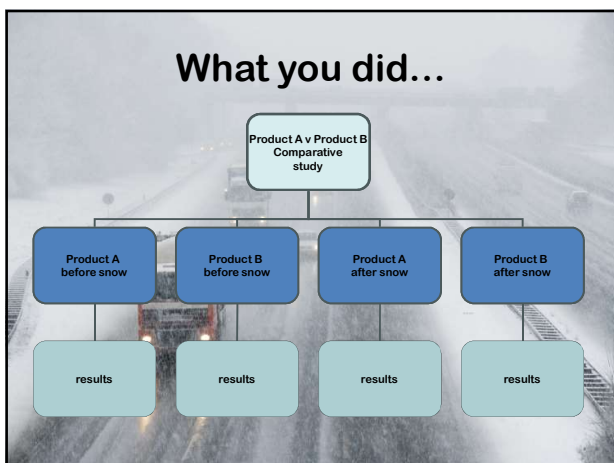
- Well thought-out document structure
- Avoid vagueness – be precise
- Never stray from the point

How to write a successful Part II Thesis...

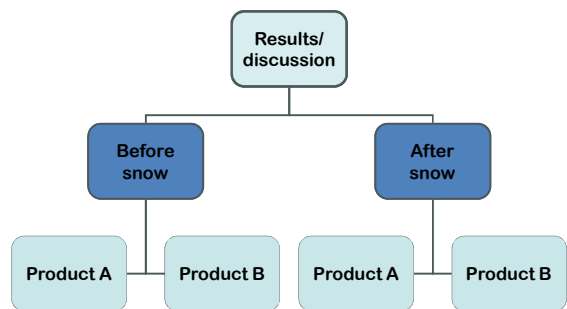
Plan	Structure	Write
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is your conclusion; and how did you get there?• What must be included?• What must be excluded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where did you start?• How did you proceed?• What are your judgements and interpretations?• What do you conclude?• Where next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-phase Process



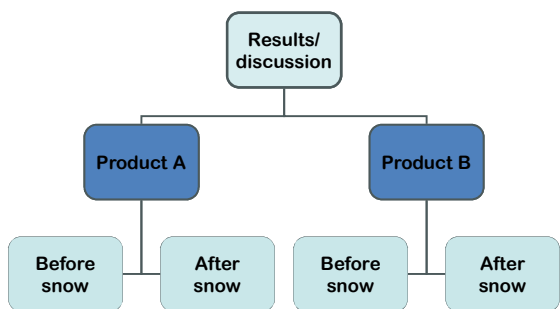




Writing about it



Or...?




Reminders for *yourself*...!

Here I'm going to *describe* the way I applied the products...


Here I will *explain* what was measured and why...

Here I will *talk about* why I think timing is more important than product used...


The 3-phase writing process



What?



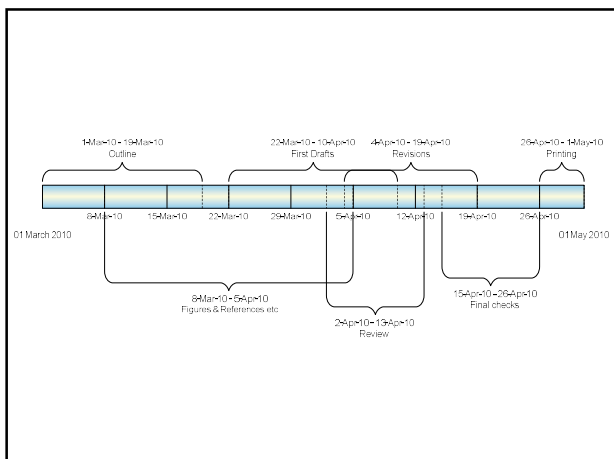
How?

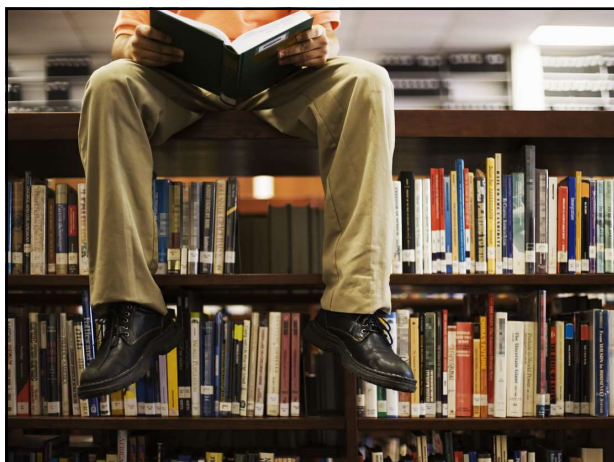


Check!









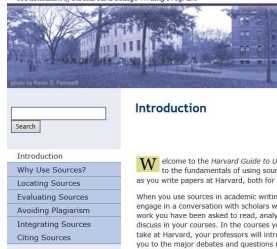
Avoiding Plagiarism

- Be thorough and systematic
- Understand the “conversation”
- Understand the context of sources
 - Chronological, theoretical etc
- Cite as you write
- What about “common knowledge”?
 - Fact *or* opinion/interpretation
- Seek advice!

Some help...

- Harvard Guide to Using Sources

Harvard Guide to Using Sources
A Publication of the Harvard College Writing Program



Search

Introduction

Why Use Sources?

Locating Sources

Evaluating Sources

Avoiding Plagiarism

Integrating Sources

Citing Sources

Introduction

Welcome to the Harvard Guide to Using Sources, the fundamentals of using sources as you write papers at Harvard, both for...

When you use sources in academic writing, engage in a conversation with scholars whose work you have been asked to read, analyze, discuss in your courses. In the courses you take at Harvard, your professors will introduce you to the major debates and questions in fields, and make you to join the scholarly...

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>

Academic Phrasebank

- Click on the following:
- [Introducing Work](#)
 - [Referring to the Literature](#)
 - [Being Critical](#)
 - [Describing Methods](#)
 - [Reporting Results](#)
 - [Discussing Findings](#)
 - [Writing Conclusions](#)
 - [General Functions](#)
 - [Useful Links](#)
 - [Home](#)

The Academic Phrasebank is a general resource for academic writers. It aims to provide you with examples of some of the phraseological "nuts and bolts" of writing organised under the headings to the left. It was designed primarily with international students whose first language is not English in mind. However, if you are a native speaker writer, you may still find parts of the material helpful.

The phrases can be used simply to assist you in thinking about your writing, or they can be used in your own work where this is appropriate. In most cases a certain amount of creativity will be necessary when you do this. It is also possible to transfer some of the words used in particular phrases to others. The phrases are content neutral and generic in nature. In using them, therefore, you are not stealing other people's ideas and this does not constitute plagiarism.

Users will need to be aware that Phrasebank is not discipline specific, and it does not claim to be comprehensive.



The University of Manchester

Editing and proofing



- Wait!
- Check facts, figures, citations
- Take breaks
- Read it backwards

Please back up



- Stuff happens!
- Hardcopy

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- Clarity in evidence and argument ✓
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