

HOW TO WRITE A THESIS

**DR. ABID AHMAD SALMAN
TIKRIT MEDICAL COLLEGE
/ COMMUNITY MEDICINE**

DEFINITION:

Thesis : Is a dissertation advancing an original point of view as a result of research, especially as a requirement for an academic degree.

Dissertation : Is a formal, lengthy exposition of a topic.(American Heritage dictionary)

However for the MSc or Diploma originality is not essential.

THESIS COMPONENTS

Title

Abstract or summary

Acknowledgement

Contents

Abbreviations

Introduction

Material and methods

Results

Discussion

Conclusion

Recommendation

References

Appendix

Title:

Short, descriptive, no unnecessary words. The department concerned should approve it. The title may not be changed after being accepted officially.

Abstact or Summary

*Is very important

*Many may read it only

*It will be the quick judge of your work

*Not more than two pages

*Should demonstrate: WHY, WHAT, WHERE, and HOW, and the HOW of your work.

*It must include some important (key) finding both positive and/or negative.

*The conclusion should be clear in the last lines



Acknowledgement

*Dignified

*Simple sentences

*No biased compliments

*Includes supervisor, typist, and people who helped in conducting the work or in critical constructive views.

Contents

***Should be clear. Use separate headings for the text, figures, and tables.**

***Use Arabic numbers (1,2,3,...) for paging the thesis starting from contents page to the end, and Roman numbers (I, II, IV...) for all pages before that i.e. titles, summary and acknowledgement**

Abbreviations

***A list of all abbreviations in alphabetical order.**

***In the thesis you preferably use the original word when it appears first followed by its abbreviation in brackets then continue with the abbreviation only e.g. Central Nervous System (CNS)**

Introduction

- *Should include definition, bases, history, progress, views on the current situation, and justification of the work. A clear and good opening sentence is impressive.
- *You should not depart from the title
- *Start with the scientific bases of the work
- *State the major facts and means related to the subject
- *What other people have discovered?
- *What are your own views about their work?
- *What have you planned to uncover or prove?
- *What is your plan briefly?
- *Aim of work clearly

Materials And Methods

*Where was the work conducted?

*When was it done?

*What was the source of your sample?

*How was the procedure?

*What was done?

*No statements or conclusion

*No results tables

*No reference to any result here

*Do not use references unless you apply a specific form or scale adopted by other workers.

Results

*Clear exposition of findings

*No references to literature

*No statement

*No conclusion

*Tables: Clear, simple, proper numbering, proper title, proper legends..(legend: is an explanatory caption accompanying an illustration)

Results should be verified statistically

Discussion

The Back Bone Of Work

- *A clear and good opening sentence is impressive
- *Presentable
- *Clear
- *Factual
- *Persuasive
- *Supported by findings from results
- *The sequence should take the same order as the introduction and results.
- *Correlate your findings of other people, positive or negative
- *Present your reasons for difference in opinion. When your results are in agreement with others state that support clearly.
- *Have you developed a new observation? Emphasize on it.

Conclusion

- *Logical argument interpreting facts as you see them

- *Should be impressive

RECOMMENDATION

***Supported by facts**

***Suggestion for future
work**

References

Use Arabic numbers sequentially as they come in the text starting from introduction through discussion e.g. (1), (3,4,5), (6-10). If a references comes in more than one place it always keeps its original number.



Appendix