

Parts, Order, and Points of a Thesis

1. Introduction (2-3 pages)
 - a. This chapter gives a broad idea of what the thesis is about, in 2-3 pages.
 - b. At the end of the Intro, there are two important parts to include:
 - i. Provide a few sentences about the past studies looking at your area and then add how this thesis EXTENDS this topic area.
 - ii. An overview of the overall format. Tell the reader which sections are included in the thesis.
2. Literature Review (10-15 pages)—The WHY section of the thesis.
 - a. This chapter has three goals
 - i. Provides a Theoretical explanation of your topic.
 1. You should present relevant theories to your topic and how these theories matter to your topic.
 - ii. Describes Research that has been done on your topic
 1. Discuss who was studied, what the researchers found, and how the studies relate to each other (i.e., do all studies find the same thing?)
 2. Try to group the studies, instead of talking about each individually
 - iii. Summarize the Literature
 1. You should have a short section telling what is known about the topic.
 2. Then, you should talk about what is not known and how your thesis adds to what is not known.
 3. Provide your research questions. This is the WHAT of the thesis.
3. Methods (10-15 pages)
 - a. This chapter tells what you did to answer your questions. It is the HOW part and consists of 4 sections.
 - i. Participants
 1. Who are they, how old, how often come to class, what proficiency level, etc.
 - ii. Data Collection and Procedures
 1. Describe the steps taken to collect data: explain the order you gave instruments (first, students..., next students ...), the directions to the learners, how long between the pre test and post test, etc. Show a table of the steps taken to collect data.
 - iii. Data Sources
 1. These are instruments that you used to research your topic (e.g., surveys, comprehension tests, proficiency exams).

2. Describe What the instruments are and WHY you created or selected them to answer your question. The WHY is answered from the Theoretical Section and the Lit Review.
- iv. Data Analysis
 1. This section tells the reader how you scored each instrument. If you used surveys, how did you score the surveys.
 2. Additionally, this section explains how the scores were examined to determine answers to your research questions.
4. Results (10-15 pages)
 - a. The goal of this chapter is to present the data and the answers to your research questions.
 - b. You only present the data, you will not describe why the students scored the way they did.
 - c. Be sure to explain the data first using words, then provide an easy to understand graph
5. Discussion (5-7 pages)
 - a. This chapter is where the researcher discusses her or his interpretation of the results as related to each of the research questions. He or she explains about why he or she thinks the students scored the way they scored. Remember, keep your discussion tied to the data, to the theory, or to the research studies on the topic.
 - b. Additionally, the researcher should relate their study to past studies on the topic. What ways did this study find what others found? How was it different?
6. Conclusion (4-6 pages)
 - a. This chapter is where the researcher ties everything together, addresses weaknesses in the thesis, and also looks toward the future.
 - i. Conclusion (1 page)
 1. Revisit your introduction and talk about why the topic is important.
 2. Write a few sentences about what your research investigated and what it found.
 3. Add a couple closing sentences.
 - vi. Implications for Practice (1 page)
 1. Tell how your findings can help practice. Why is this information useful for teachers?
 - vii. Limitations (1-2 pages)
 1. Every thesis has limitations, don't be afraid to talk about them. Limitations can include: sample size, observation length, instruments used, they ways you defined outcomes, etc.
 - iv. Future Research (1 page)
 1. From your findings and limitations, you should be able to suggest what could be done in the future to help answer your research questions.

References (9-12 pages) (This is not considered in the official page count of the thesis.)

- a. Follow APA (check this link- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> and/or look at the reference style for a journal article from TESOL Quarterly).

Appendices (optional) (pages as necessary)

- a. Appendices should be created based on need. Different information is included as a different appendix and these are listed using letters of the alphabet.