



COURSE

METHODOLOGY: THE PROCESS OF RESEARCH

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Steps in writing a research Master's thesis

- i) choose a subject

Is it practical and interesting?

- ii) Check reference sources for your topic in libraries

- iii) Narrow the subject

- iv) Is it narrow enough?

Yes No

- v) Find out what resources libraries have for this topic by beginning a preliminary bibliography.

Are there useful books and articles available?

Yes No

- vi) Further develop a preliminary bibliography.

- vii) Read and take notes to get familiar with the topic.

Do you know enough to be able to focus on one very limited aspect?

Yes No

- viii) Develop a preliminary thesis statement and outline.

Continue reading and taking notes.

Do you have enough notes, information, and ideas?

- ix) Revise your preliminary thesis statement and preliminary outline.

- x) Draft the body of the paper/ thesis.

- xi) Draft the introduction and conclusion

- xii) Redraft all or part

Are you satisfied?

Xiii) Add citations and bibliography (make sure they are complete)

xiv) Edit for mechanical errors (such as spelling and punctuation)

xv) Add the cover page (with your name, title etc)

Hand the paper / Thesis to your instructor and then relax

GENERAL FORMAT OF THE RESEARCH

“ For all knowledge and wonder (which is the seed of knowledge) is an impression of pleasure in itself “Francis Bacon

1. **Prelims** (elements (cover page, Dedication, abbreviations ,, Table of contents)
2. **Main text** (Introduction, Main body, Conclusion)
3. **End matter** (Annex, Index, Bibliography, Abstract)

Words and abbreviations commonly used in connection with quotations and footnotes

- **Latin :**

cf., et al, et seq., *ibid.*, *infra*, *loc.cit.*,*op.cit.*, *passim*, (sic), *supra*

c.or ca

Abbreviation	Latin	English meaning
<i>c.or ca</i>	Circa	Approximately, about (for dates)
<i>cf.</i>	Confer	compare
<i>et al.</i>	et alli, et alla	and other people/things
<i>et seq.</i>	Et sequens	And the following pages
<i>ibid.</i>	Ibidem	in the same place (usually

		referring to a reference)
<i>loc.cit</i>	loco citato	in the place mentioned
<i>op.cit</i>	opere citato	In the work mentioned
<i>passim</i>	Passim	At many points, recurrent

4. TERM-PAPER AND FINAL PAPER: Layout

▶ **Dedication**

▶ **Acknowledgements**

- *This is the place and opportunity to express your gratitude*
- *I am grateful to all the lecturers of the Department of English...*
- *Many thanks are also due to those who taught me and encouraged me since my entry into the University..... These include,*
- *I am especially grateful to... whose assistance and encouragement were paramount to the completion of this study.*
- *I finally wish to thank...*

▶ **Table of contents**

TERM-PAPER (5 PAGES)

▶ **Introduction**

1. Presentation of the subject

■ **Background to the research problem**

- Should show the understanding and genesis of the problem
- Talk about the target group in the study.

■ The author and his environment

- Definition of the key item of the subject

2. Statement of the research problem and

- Indicate why and how it is a problem.

- Must indicate exactly what the problem is

(The study is an investigation into....

This study explores the following research question :)

■ Research Questions –

The study will address the stated as follows:

1-

2-

3-

■ The research Objectives

- **One general objective which should be in line with the title.**

They should be in line with the specific objectives and equal in number. - Have to be numbered (1, 2, 3.....) and should be questions and not statements.

- *The study makes a contribution in the following respects*

-First, it evaluates...

-Second, it explains

- Identify and analyze

- Illustrate the cultural identity of ...

- Seek possible explanations that underlie....

The achievement of these aims will shed more light on....

Secondly, it will enable us to better understand...

FINAL PAPER (10 PAGES)

Introduction

1. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

1.1 . The Review of literature and Topic choice justification

- Indicate what has been done by other researchers including the methodologies used and identify gaps.

- Critique of the existing literature relevant to the study.

“This section covers past research related to our topic. For clarity and comprehension purposes, the reviewed literature are exploited, analysed, and grouped according to the specific aspects of...”

- Summary

- Research gaps

1.2. Theoretical method (s)

Analytical aspect of the research

- Sociological approaches to literary criticism

- Formalistic approaches to literary criticism

- psychoanalytic criticism

- Linguistic approaches to literary criticism

2. Prospective outline for Master2

▶ - PART ONE: “ Title”

▶ PART TWO: “ Title”

▶ PART THREE: “ Title”

MAIN BODY

PART ONE “Title”

Chapter1

1.1.

1.2

Chapter 2

2.1

2.2.

PART TWO “Title”**Chapter3**

3.1.

3.2

Chapter 4

4.1

4.2.

PART THREE “Title”**Chapter5**

5.1.

5.2

Chapter 6

6.1

6.2.

Conclusion**Bibliography****2. PROSPECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

(example)

- FRECON, GUY (2012). *Formuler une problématique*. Paris : DUNOD. 2^{ème} Edition.

- HAMP-LYONS, LIZ and COURTER, KAREN BERRY (1984). *Research Matters*, Rowley. London : Newbury House Publishers, INC
- N'DA, PIERRE (2007). *Méthodologie et guide pratique du mémoire de recherche et de la thèse de doctorat*. Paris : L'Harmattan
- REID M, JOY (1982). *The Process of Composition*. London: Prentice-Hall International.

CONCLUSION