

# Essentials of writing a doctoral proposal and dissertation

## Essay topic

- (1) Please check whether the title of the thesis attracts readers
- (2) Please check if the thesis title is in the relevant field of your major

## Abstract

- (1) The abstract of the thesis needs to describe what the unsolved research problems in a certain academic field are
- (2) Describe the research purpose to carry out this research plan in order to make up for the lack of knowledge in this academic field.
- (3) The research method should describe the location and research objects and the research tools used, such as questionnaires or interviews.
- (4) What are the findings of the main research?
- (5) and which institutions and individuals are helpful to this research
- (6) Please review the abstract to provide a correct overview of the entire paper
- (7) Please check whether the abstract of the paper can help readers understand what this paper is saying, without reading chapters 1 to 5 of the entire text. **(If you write only 3 chapters, abstract will be written on the basis of 3 chapters)**

## Chapter 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Research Background

The research background must be described from large to small background

### 1.2 Problem Statement (What was missing from the academic knowledge of an academic field in the past)

Please check if the problem statement is clear about an unresolved academic problem in a certain academic field (there is still a lack of academic knowledge)

### 1.3 Research purpose (what can this research case do to fill this gap in academic knowledge)

The purpose of research is to find and provide answers to the above research questions

## Chapter 2 Literature Review

- (1) Please indicate which specific theoretical frameworks are used in this thesis. Please check whether this paper is in a suitable theoretical framework. Please browse the literature of past research in an academic field.
- (2) Please indicate who is the earliest researcher who has put forward arguments in this field, and where are they or their main contributions? Explain the differences between the main theoretical development history in this field and the old and new theories. Does the new theory replace the old Theories, please check whether the literature you browsed is advancing with the times, not all outdated academic knowledge. Are there any new research findings in the past 3-5 years to overthrow or update this field?
- (3) Which one or more academic knowledge holes are there in the literature of the entire field from ancient times to the present? This hole must echo the research questions described in the

previous chapter.

(4) Please check whether the literature you are browsing is related to the knowledge gap in an academic field mentioned in Chapter 1. Please suggest which questions this research is discussing and seek answers to these questions. Please review what this research seeks the answer can fill the gap of academic knowledge in the academic field. Before you seek the answers to these questions, please check whether the questions you asked are refreshing. Before you seek the answers to these questions, please check whether the questions you asked are Makes people question the established facts that most people or most scholars in the field thought

(5) Hypotheses

(6) Conceptual Framework

### **Chapter 3 Research Methods**

Please divide into 4 small chapters

#### 3.1 Study location

Please explain why you chose this research site instead of another (Comparison similar locations)

#### 3.2 Research objects

Please explain why you chose these subjects over others (Comparison similar objects)

#### 3.3 Research tool data collection process

Please indicate exactly which research tool. Like the questionnaire, interview form or observation record form, please use which of the theoretical frameworks pointed out in Chapter 2 to design the questions in the questionnaire and the interview.

How to design questionnaire or interview questions is needed to clarify, you have to review from the literature where you get them. Also reviewing the variables used in designing them is to see their significance. **This part may be reviewed in Chapter 2.**

#### 3.4 Analysis tools

Please advise how to analyze after data collection

Please check whether the content of the research method chapter you described allows readers to copy your collection and analysis methods after reading it.

**Chapter 1-3 are enough to the time of proposal defense examination**

**Do not forget you have to explain three essays in term of theories models in chapter 2 and methodologies used in chapter 3 differently.**

**Importantly, you have to connect all the concepts or theories of 3 essays in one model to explain concisely one topic of the particular title at the beginning.**

### **Finish For Proposal Defense Exam**

**Chapter 4 Research Results and Discussion (Normally for RICE, we will put 3 essays in this chapters and push Research Results and Discussion into Chapter 5)**

There are three steps required to report each research result:

Step 1. Report the research results as the answer to research question 1.

Report research result two as the answer to research question two

Step 2. Use the theoretical framework of Chapter 2 to explain its research results.

Step 3 .Use the collected data to support the research results

Support your research with statistics or what your interviewees say as evidence, and your findings are your claims.

Please check whether your claim is self-explanatory. It needs to be supported by the theoretical framework and the collected data as evidence to support your claim.

Please discuss the relationship between your findings and related research in the past. Do your findings support past research?

How your findings respond, complement or even challenge past research results

Please review how your research results challenge existing literature, and that is where your research contributes to academia

### **Chapter 5 Conclusion (This will include in Research Results, Discussion and Conclusion)**

Please divide into four chapters

5.1 In other words, what do you think about the results of your research and why your research responds, supplements and challenges existing literature?

5.2 What are the limitations of your research, for example, the sample space is too small?

5.3 Which institutions and individuals will benefit most from your research findings?

5.4 Do you have any suggestions for future researchers in this field?