

Running head: FIVE CHAPTERS OF A THESIS



DL5: Comprehensive Examination Questions

Question #6: The Five Chapters of a Thesis

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Question 6

Describe the five major chapters of a thesis. Your description should also include the value and purpose for each chapter.

The five major chapters of a thesis are: the introduction, review of related literature, design and methodology, findings, and conclusion (College of Education Masters Committee).

Chapter 1: The Introduction

“The Introduction is not a narrative. It is only a heading under which the following six narrative sections appear: General Statement of the Problem, Significance of the Thesis, Research Question(s), Limitations and Delimitations, Assumptions, and Definitions of Terms. These sections help the reader understand what will be presented in the thesis, and why” (College of Education Masters Committee). “The author(s) should indicate why the study is important” (McMillan & Schumacher, 2010).

Chapter 2: Review of Related Literature

“This section outlines what you learned from previous contributors to the field. It brings the researcher and the reader up to date on what others did relevant to the topic. The Review of Related Literature section addresses the questions "How unique is this thesis?" "Is it a logical expansion of previous work?" and "Has this already been done?" (College of Education Masters Committee).

Chapter 3: Design and Methodology

“This is not a narrative, but a heading under which the sections on Subjects, Instrumentation/Data Collection, and Data Treatment Procedures appear” (College of Education Masters Committee). “[T]he method section is to provide sufficient detail about your experiment

to enable readers to evaluate its appropriateness or to replicate your study should they desire” (Smith & Davis, 2007). This section helps readers to determine the validity of the research. “Can the data collected, for example, actually be used to answer the question being asked” (Locke, Silverman, & Spirduso, 2010)

Chapter 4: Findings

“This is an important thesis section, with narrative and other material attached. It includes your actual Findings, as well as sections on Conclusion, and Recommendations for Further Research. Report and discuss your results here. Use charts, tables, and graphs when appropriate, but include a narrative that describes what you consider the most relevant information. Try to make each tabular display appear on a single page, so readers can see it at a glance. Present as many summary displays as appropriate, so you will not have to discuss every detail. Be sure to include potential implications, as well as the facts. Explain carefully how your Findings confirm or diverge from those of previous researchers” (College of Education Masters Committee).

Chapter 5: Conclusion

“Limit this section to a discussion of summarized data that were presented earlier in your thesis. Do not present new information. Use the Conclusion to articulate your main points with clarity; to reiterate, summarize, and perhaps re-sequence the Findings; and to start winding down your thesis narrative” (College of Education Masters Committee).

Works Cited

College of Education Masters Committee. (n.d.). *Guide for thesis and projects, 2nd Ed.*

Retrieved April 13, 2010, from CSUSB:

http://www.csusb.edu/coe/programs/correctional_ed/documents/GuideforThesesandProjects.pdf

Locke, L. F., Silverman, S. J., & Spirduso, W. W. (2010). *Reading and understanding research, 3rd Ed.* Los Angeles: Sage.

McMillan, J. H., & Schumacher, S. (2010). *Research in education: Evidence-based inquiry, 7th Ed.* Boston: Pearson.

Smith, R. A., & Davis, S. F. (2007). *The psychological detective: An introduction to conducting research in psychology, 4th Ed.* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.