

Senior Thesis Recommended Outline

THESIS INTRODUCTION OUTLINE SAMPLE

Contents -- Chapters

Abstract

Acknowledgments

1. Introduction:

- Major research question
 - Subquestion A (to address major research question)
 - Subquestion B (to address major research question)
- How you came to be interested in your major research question
- The importance of this question to the community and/or sociology
- A sentence or two description of each of the chapters to follow

2. Review of the Literature:

- Introduction
- Review of literature related to Subquestion A
- Review of literature related to Subquestion B
- Brief summary and sentence leading into next chapter

3. Methodology:

- a. Research question and subquestions
- b. Methodology and why you chose this method
- c. Specifics about your methodology -- for example, if you based your study on interviews, write at least several paragraphs about:
 - 1) your sample
 - who they are
 - how many?
 - how did you select them?
 - why did you select them this way?
 - how did you contact them?
 - 2) your interview:
 - phone or in person?
 - how long on average?
 - where?
 - when?
 - the nature of your interview schedule
 - did you pretest it? how?

- 3) indexes you constructed and your means of coding your data.
- 4) other specifics pertaining to your methodology?

4. Findings pertaining to subquestion A.

5. Findings pertaining to subquestion B.

6. Analysis:

This chapter needs to be based on comparisons. For example, you may wish to compare your findings for different groups within your sample and/or your findings with findings of others which you included in your literature review.

- a. Make such comparisons for subquestion A
- b. Make such comparisons for subquestion A

7. Summary, Conclusions and Suggestions for Future Research, Policy and Practice:

- a. Briefly summarize what you did (from the above)
- b. Summarize your conclusions from your analysis
- c. Based on your research what research would you recommend that other students and scholars undertake?
(This is where you can suggest that others -- or you yourself -- undertake in the future all those things you decided you couldn't manage to do in this project.)
- d. Based on your research and analysis, what social policy recommendations would you make to educational institutions, unions, governmental agencies, etc.
- e. Based on your research findings and analysis, what recommendations would you make for practice (institutions' and groups implementation of their goals and policies)?

Appendix A: Interview Schedule (if relevant).

Appendix B-?: Other material you think is very important to include with your senior thesis that does not belong in the body of your thesis.

Bibliography of all references cited.