

## WRITING A THESIS

### **What is a thesis?**

A thesis (or dissertation) is a document submitted in support of candidature for an academic degree (for example, M. Sc., M. Phil., Ph. D. etc) or a professional qualification (for example, B. Ed., F. C. P. S., F. R. C. S., M. D. etc) presenting the author's research and findings.

### **Structure of a thesis**

**Title page:** Title, author(s), affiliations, date of delivery.

**Abstract:** Concise statements of major results, explaining implications of the work.

**Table of contents:** List of all headings, tables, figures, plates etc with page numbers.

**Introduction:** Background information, relevant citations, scope, aims and objectives

**Materials and Methods:** Description of all materials, procedures and calculations.

**Results:** Actual findings and observations including tables, plates and graphs.

**Discussion:** Beginning with summary of the most important results, followed by agreement(s) or disagreement(s) with previous work with relevant references; finally interpretations of the significance of the work.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:** The strongest and most important findings of the research; further research to fill in gaps and directions for future investigations.

**Acknowledgements:** Intellectual, technical and financial assistance received from persons, organizations or companies etc.

**References:** An alphabetical list of all citations made in the text.

**Appendices:** All raw data/materials not easily available to others; tables, calculations and additional resource materials not included in the text.

## WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

### **What is a research paper?**

A research paper is a published document that allows people to read a work done on a particular aspect. The work is generally published in a journal having wide circulation to its reads of interests.

### **Structure of a research paper**

#### **Title**

A self-explanatory sentence graspable (easily understood) to most readers

#### **Name(s) and address(es) of author(s)**

The person(s) involved in carrying out the research and writing-up of the manuscript.

#### **Abstract**

A concise single-paragraph summary of the work, usually within 200-250 words, always written in past tense.

#### **Introduction**

This is to acquaint the reader with the rationale behind the work. It includes relevant citations and describes the aims as well as the importance or significance of the study.

#### **Materials and methods**

The section includes all biological materials, specialized chemicals and any equipment or supplies, statistical procedures etc used in the laboratory or field studies to collect/record experimental data.

#### **Results**

The purpose of this section is to present and illustrate all findings with table and figures. The results are usually split into sub-sections to accommodate various findings of the work.

#### **Discussion**

An interpretation of results and support for all conclusions, using evidence from own experiment and previously published work. The significance of findings and their implications are described clearly.

#### **Conclusion**

The most important findings of the research and their implications, written in a single paragraph.

#### **Acknowledgements**

Intellectual, technical and financial assistance received from persons, institutions etc are included.

#### **References (=Literature cited)**

A list all literature cited in the paper (for example, those mentioned in Introduction, Materials and methods and in Discussion) in alphabetical order by the first author.