# Scientific paper Master Thezis

# **Establish Your Topic**

- Try to pick a topic that's fun and interesting.
- If your topic genuinely interests you, chances are you'll enjoy spending time working on it and it won't seem like a chore.
- Finding a topic can be difficult.
- Give yourself plenty of time to read and think about what you'd like to do.
- Trying to answer questions you have about a particular subject may lead you to a good paper idea.
  - What subject(s) are you interested in?
- What interests you most about a particular subject?
- Is there anything you wonder about or are puzzled about with regard to that subject?

#### Look for Sources of Information

- Take a trip to the library.
- Use the electronic catalog or browse the shelves to look for books on your topic.
- If you find a book that is useful, check the bibliography (list of sources) in the back of that book for other books or articles on that topic.
- Also check indexes of periodicals and newspapers. Check with a librarian if you need help finding sources.
- Try to use as many different types of sources as you can, including books, magazine articles, and internet articles. Don't rely on just one source for all your information.
- Keep a list of all the sources that you use. Include the title of the source, the author, publisher, and place and date of publication.
- This is your preliminary, or draft, <u>bibliography</u>.

#### Read Your Sources and Take Notes

- After you've gathered your sources, begin reading and taking notes.
- Use 3 x 5 index cards, one fact or idea per card.
- This way related ideas from different sources can be easily grouped together or rearranged.
- On each index card, be sure to note the source, including the volume number (if there is one) and the page number.
- If you wind up using that idea in your paper, you will have the information about the source ready to put in your footnote or endnote.
- If you copy something directly from a book without putting it in your own words, put quotation marks around
- it so that you know it is an exact quotation.
- This will help you to avoid <u>plagiarism</u>

## **Organize Your Ideas**

- Using the information collected on the note cards, develop an **outline** to organize your ideas.
- An outline shows your main ideas and the order in which you are going to write about them.
- It's the bare bones of what will later become a fleshed-out written report.
- Write down all the main ideas.
- List the subordinate ideas below the main ideas.
- Avoid any repetition of ideas.



# Write a First Draft

#### Components of a Scientific work is made up of three parts:

introduction

body

Conclusion



the general part; the special part

The special part includes the candidate's research

### Introduction

- The introduction is the first paragraph of the paper.
- It often begins with a general statement about the topic and ends with a more specific statement of the main idea of your paper.
- The purpose of the introduction is to:
  - let the reader know what the topic
  - inform the reader about your point of view
  - arouse the reader's curiosity so that he or she will want to read about your topic
  - The introduction must contain:
    - the motivation for choosing the research topic;
    - the importance and background of the topic;
    - The scientific objectives of the research;
    - Some comments on the research methodology;

# Write a First Draft

- The body of the paper follows the introduction.
- It consists of a number of paragraphs in which you develop your ideas in detail.
  - Limit each paragraph to one main idea. (Don't try to talk about more than one idea per paragraph).
  - Prove your points continually by using specific examples and quotations from your note cards.
    - Use <u>transition words</u> to ensure a smooth flow of ideas from paragraph to paragraph.

The conclusion is the last paragraph of the paper. Its purpose is to

summarize your points, leaving out specific examples

restate the main idea of the paper

#### Use Footnotes or Endnotes or <u>Parentheses</u> to Document Sources

- As you write your first draft, including the introduction, body, and conclusion, add the information or quotations on your note cards to support your ideas.
- Use footnotes or endnotes to identify the sources of this information. If you are using footnotes, the note will appear on the same page as the information you are documenting, at the bottom (or "foot") of the page. If you are using endnotes, the note will appear together with all other notes on a separate page at the end of your report, just before the bibliography. If you are using parenthetical documentation, you will use the MLA format and a Works Cited page.

There are different formats for footnotes (and endnotes), so be sure to use the one your teacher prefers.

Note that footnotes can be shortened if the source has already been given in full in a previous footnote. (see below)