



Method: Flash Exposé

The flash exposé is a method of writing freely for a predefined period of time. You do not look at your notes while writing the flash exposé. Writing under time pressure can help silencing the "inner critic". This is important as the flash exposé is not about completeness of content or perfect wording, but rather about encouraging you to continue your thought process.

The flash exposé is suitable for...

- getting an overview of what you still need to clarify for your writing project to succeed,
- preparing and systematizing your collection of material (finding keywords for the topics/aspects of the project; sorting a bibliography by topic, background topics, state of research, research methods) (cf. Grieshammer et al. p. 185),
- drafting an outline (cf. ibid.),
- developing a work plan (cf. ibid.),
- deciding (pragmatically) for a topic (What do I already know most about?),
- subsequently writing a detailed, reader-oriented exposé that can be handed to your supervisor.

Instructions

- Set yourself a time limit (approx. 20 minutes) and start writing freely without looking at your notes.
- Write in complete sentences and as quickly as possible (cf. Grieshammer et al. p. 184).
- You write only for yourself (writer-oriented).
- It is not necessary to have perfect wording.
- If you cannot answer one question, jump to the next one.

Answer the following questions about your work as quickly as possible:

- Topic/ narrowing down the topic: What is the focus of your work? What should your work be about?
- Question/ thesis/ working hypothesis: What do you want to find out, show or test? What aspects are particularly interesting?

- Goals/ personal interest: What should be the result of your work? Why is this result important/ interesting/ relevant? What do you want to achieve?
- Methodology: How are you going to proceed? What methods are you going to use? Why are these methods suitable for your project?
- Material: What exactly are you going to analyze? Do you want to analyze specific empirical data, primary texts, sources, or phenomena? What are the selection criteria for your material? What is the scope of your material? What literature are you going to use? Do you already have all of the material?
- Problem statement/ reference to existing literature or research: To what state of research do you connect your paper? Is there a gap or specific problem in research?
- Resources: What methods, literature, workshops, or counselling services do you want to use?
- Timeline: What milestones have you set for yourself? By when do you want to have finished your work?

(cf. *ibid.*)

Source: Grieshammer, Ella et al. *Zukunftsmodell Schreibberatung. Eine Anleitung zur Begleitung von Schreibenden im Studium*. 3rd ed., Schneider Verlag Hohengehren GmbH, 2016.

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