



The Basic Structure of Academic Texts

Know the structure of your and other's Texts - understand better.

The Basic Structure of Academic Texts

The Introduction

- Relevance of the topic and problem statement
- Order of the introduction:
 - Relevance of the topic and problem statement
 - Goal of the paper in shape of a question, problem or hypothesis
 - If necessary: shows the limits of your work
 - Structure of the paper (your single steps) to show the reader what to expect

Tip: While describing the structure you should refer to the final goal of your project.

The Body

- Theoretical concept (if assured) (theory and important terms)
- Current state of research in regard to the main question
- Method and approach of your own research
- Result (in an neutral way)
- Discussion (analytical part)
- Subsumption in the greater context

The Conclusion and Perspective

- Important insights and theses are shortly summarized to prove your conclusion
- It is possible to give a perspective about possible future happenings or advices based on your result.
- You can pick up your examples from the introduction and integrate them in your conclusion.
- It is possible as well to give a short summary of your paper
- In the final chapter it is unusual to present new thoughts or new literature.

The Structure / The Index & "The Red Yarn"

- Very significant indicator for the quality of a scientific paper
- Gives the reader information about: structure, format, style and content
- First step after the literature search
- Helps to focus on the central theme
- Helps to make the paper stringent
- It is important to adjust the index during the work process (dualism between index and text)
- The Index reflects the logical structure of a paper and helps to orientate

Tip: If you are getting lost in your topic always refer to your (temporary) Index and write quick in your own words what every paragraph is about. This will help you to focus on the important topics and prevents you from getting lost.

Structure/Index Models

<p><u>The systematic (linear) structure</u></p> <p>The different chapters and subjects have the same importance in regard to the paper's question. They get stringed like pearls on a yarn. E.g. for historical topics</p>	<p><u>The deductive structure</u></p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Hypothesis 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Argument 1 ○ Argument 2 ... <p>Hypothesis 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Argument 1 ○ Argument 2 ... <p>Conclusion of hypothesis 1 and 2</p>	<p><u>The inductive Structure</u></p> <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Argument 1 ○ Argument 2 ... <p>Thesis 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Argument 1 ○ Argument 2 ... <p>Thesis 2</p> <p>Conclusion of thesis 1 and 2</p>
<p><u>The cause and effect Structure</u></p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Cause 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ effect 1 ○ effect 2 ... <p>Cause 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ effect 1 ○ effect 2 ... <p>Conclusion</p>	<p><u>Block-structure</u></p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Object 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aspect 1 ○ Aspect 2 ... <p>Object 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aspect 1 ○ Aspect 2 ... <p>Comparison of Object 1, 2, ...</p> <p>Conclusion</p>	<p><u>Empiric/ natural scientific structure</u></p> <p>1. Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Actual situation of research 1.2 Problem <p>2. Research design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Examined collectives 2.2 Measuring method 2.3 Material 2.4 Data analyses <p>3. Result</p> <p>4. Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Methods 4.2 Results <p>5. Summary</p>



The "Red Yarn-Technique"

The so-called "Red Yarn" is not only a German metaphor for a well-structured argumentation, but also a helpful technique for your writing Process:

If you are struggling with the prioritization of your paper's content, grab your Pre-Index and start to write to every point a few lines concerning the content out of your memory.

- Do it quick and without deep thinking.
- Use simple words and do not care about spelling.
- Repeat in your little text the words of your index point
- It should not take you more than 20 min.

This technique is supposed to activate your brain for the following task and to show you unnecessary and/or missing links on your way to accomplish the paper.

Mitglied im Netzwerk von:

