



Steps to a seminar paper

I. Searching for a topic:

Helpful questions:

- Which subject area am I particularly interested in?
- Are there certain aspects/phenomena within this area that I would like to understand better?
- What previous knowledge do I have about my area of interest?
- Have I already read something on this topic?

II. Initial literature research and concretisation of the topic:

First get an overview of the subject area in order to then define the topic section of your thesis. This will enable you to search for literature in a more targeted manner and finally create an initial rough outline.

In this preparatory step, you do not yet need to prepare detailed excerpts. Firstly, define the framework by simply reviewing the literature.

- ▶ You should go to your lecturer's office hours with your proposed topic and initial outline.

III. Reading and excerpting literature:

Make excerpts of the articles and book chapters relevant to your work.

This step is very important so that you can incorporate the important information into your text in your own words. An excerpt also helps you to understand the text better.

IV. Collect and structure key statements:

Once you have excerpted all the texts, collect the main statements and assign them to their first outline. You will notice that your previous outline needs to be refined: Add sub-points or, if necessary, leave out aspects of topics that lead too far.



V. Write a first introduction:

Write a first introduction. This is about making yourself aware of your project. It is important that you formulate the research question very specifically and summarise your chapter overview in words.

VI. Writing the rough draft and adapting the outline

Now it's time to get started!

By the way, you don't have to write your work from the first to the last chapter. It is quite normal for the sequence of chapters to change, for parts to be joined together later or shortened...even a masterpiece is a piece of work.

VII. Revision of the introduction and conclusion

When the main part is finished, write the conclusion and adapt the introduction. It is important that the questions posed at the beginning are answered at the end.

VIII. Correction

Revise your first version again and give it to friends to proofread.