

■ SECOND EDITION

ROUTLEDGE  


# **A CONCISE GUIDE TO WRITING A THESIS OR DISSERTATION**

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND BEYOND

HALYNA M. KORNUA AND RON W. GERMAINE



# A Concise Guide to Writing a Thesis or Dissertation

*A Concise Guide to Writing a Thesis or Dissertation* provides clear, succinct, and intentional guidelines about organizing and writing a thesis or dissertation. Part I provides an overview for writing a thesis or dissertation. It describes the big picture of planning and formatting a research study, from identifying a topic to focusing on writing quality. Part II describes the framework and substance of a research study. It models the pattern generally found in a formal, five-chapter research study.

Each chapter of a thesis or dissertation has a specific purpose and this book focuses on each in an easy-to-follow structure. Chapter One reviews the headings and contents expected in the introduction of a study. Chapter Two provides advice for writing a literature review. Chapter Three discusses what to include when describing the methodology. These first three chapters form the proposal section of a study. Two additional chapters present results (Chapter Four) and provide discussion and conclusions (Chapter Five).

Appendices offer resources for instructors and students, including a rubric for evaluating writing, exercises to strengthen skills in APA format, sample purpose statements, a research planning organizer, and a guide for scholarly writing. The book is designed overall to be a practical guide and resource for students for their thesis or dissertation process.

**Halyna M. Kornuta** provides leadership in faculty professional development, curriculum development, assessment, aligning curriculum with assessment, accreditation and program review. She has been a teacher and an elementary school principal in Canada and Germany, served as vice-president of academic affairs and accreditation liaison officer, and is currently Provost at Reiss-Davis Graduate Center.

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and Ron W. Germaine*

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# What others have said

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Over 4000 professors and students have used our book to support the writing of theses or dissertations. Their responses have been overwhelmingly positive, and are captured in the following comments:

## Professors

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“[Your book] is well written, . . . an easy to read and follow resource that will serve all students who are developing and writing a research project. . . . [It] gives students good advice and examples in addition to great websites for further information . . . It will certainly promote the successful completion of their project. I would recommend this guide to any students who are writing a thesis or a research project of any kind.”

“Your book is spot-on for guiding students through writing a thesis. It is short, to the point, and very clear at each step of the way.”

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“The book is the most well-organized, concise, and practical guide that I have ever read concerning writing research papers. I intend to use the text in my research writing course as a basic reference tool and required reading for all my students.”

## **And students . . .**

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“Preparing a research report is a special kind of writing. Your Guide took the mystery out of how to organize what I needed to say.” Master’s student

“Your book has been the greatest help of any text in my Master’s program.” Master’s student

“I was terrified at the thought of having to write a paper of such magnitude. Your Guide helped me face that fear and find success in writing.” Master’s student

“I had your book next to me through much of my dissertation because it helped me focus on the purpose of each section . . . you give very easy steps to tackle each part.” Doctoral student

“Your book is the best I’ve read for helping to organize the writing of my dissertation. I am so grateful I have it as a resource.” Doctoral student

The authors are grateful to all who have used our book and made valuable suggestions for change.

## **Need for the second edition**

Our first edition modeled fifth edition formatting of the American Psychological Association (APA). This second edition models APA formatting of the sixth edition. Topics, tables, and the evaluation rubric are updated. A research planning organizer and a guide for scholarly writing were added. Some appendices from the first edition have been integrated into the text of the book. We believe the clarity of explanation so many found helpful in the first edition has been maintained. Note to readers: Due to publishing limitations, some of the titles within the book do not accurately conform with APA format. For precise APA format, please see the APA manual (2010, pp. 62–63), or refer to Table 1.1, (p. 8) or Table D.1 (p. 107) in this book.

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# Contents

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<i>List of illustrations</i>	xiii
<i>Preface</i>	xiv

## **Part I**

### **The big picture**

**1**

Theses and dissertations defined	2
Topic development	2
Define the problem clearly	3
Choose the methodology	4
Craft a purpose statement	4
Organization	5
Chapters One, Two and Three	5
Chapters Four and Five	6
References and Abstract	6
Writing quality	7
Levels of headings	8
Table of Contents	9
Format	9
Writing resources	10
Tables and figures	10
Process and product	11
Summary	12

<b>Part II</b>		
<b>Framework and substance of chapters</b>		<b>13</b>
Introductory pages		14
Title page		15
Additional pages		16
Abstract		16
<b>1 Introduction</b>		<b>17</b>
Headings		19
Background to the study		21
Purpose of the study		22
Research question		25
Examples of writing research questions		26
Significance of the study		28
Assumptions		29
Limitations		30
Delimitations		31
Definitions		31
Summary		32
Chapter summary		33
<b>2 Review of the literature</b>		<b>34</b>
Brainstorming and organizing content for the Literature Review		36
Beginning the Literature Review		39
Introduction – untitled		42
Historical overview of . . . and/or theories of . . . and/or purposes of . . .		44
Current findings		44
Chapter summary		45
<b>3 Methodology</b>		<b>46</b>
Positivist/Postpositivist paradigm		47

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Constructivist paradigm	48
Pragmatic paradigm	48
Action Research	50
Content of Chapter Three	53
Examples of headings in Chapter Three	54
Introduction – untitled	54
Research design	54
Headings for a qualitative design study	55
Headings for a quantitative design study	59
Headings for an Action Research study	64
Summary	64
Chapter summary	67
<b>4 Findings and analysis</b>	<b>68</b>
Headings common to both qualitative and quantitative studies	69
Headings for qualitative findings and analysis	71
Background and setting	71
Choosing participants	72
Summary of findings	72
Headings for quantitative findings and analysis	74
Background and setting	75
Choosing the sample population	75
Demographics of the population	76
Variables and measures of variables	76
Statistical procedure	77
Review of hypothesis or discussion of results	78
Summary	79
Chapter summary	80
<b>5 Summary, discussion of findings and conclusions, and recommendations</b>	<b>81</b>
Headings for Chapter Five	82
Background and setting	82

Methodology and research design	82
Discussion of findings and conclusions	82
Recommendations	83
Summary	83
Chapter summary	84
<i>References</i>	85
<i>Appendix A: Rubric for evaluating writing</i>	89
<i>Appendix B: APA skill building exercises</i>	96
<i>Appendix C: Examples of purpose statements</i>	101
<i>Appendix D: Research planning organizer</i>	103
<i>Appendix E: Guide for scholarly writing</i>	110
<i>Appendix F: Guide for oral presentations</i>	114
<i>Index</i>	116

# Illustrations

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## Tables

I.1	Format for APA levels of headings	8
1.1	Words particular to a methodology	24
2.1	Verbs/phrases for reporting finding	43
3.1	Terminology, methods, and techniques of qualitative and quantitative research	49
3.2	Research planning guide	56
3.3	Attributes that might be assessed	61
3.4	Measures of central tendency and measures of variance	65
4.1	Qualitative and quantitative headings that may be used for Chapter Four	71
A.1	Rubric for evaluating writing	90
D.1	Format for APA levels of headings	107
E.1	Where to find it in the APA Manual	111

## Figures

2.1	Fishbone diagram	36
2.2	Concept map	38
3.1	Model for Action Research	52