

The concluding chapter of your thesis

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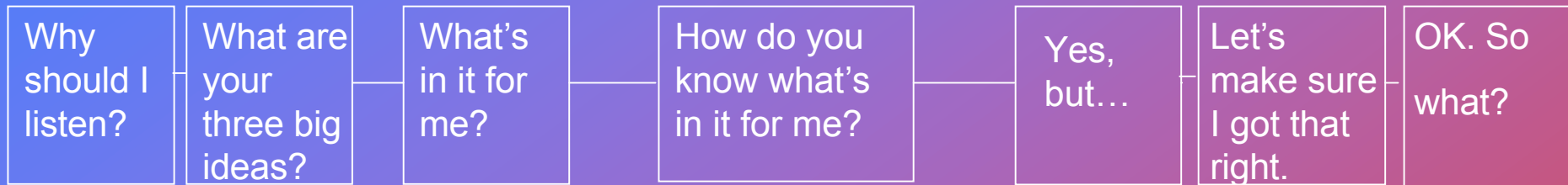
Written 'presentation'

- Think of the final chapter of your thesis as a written presentation

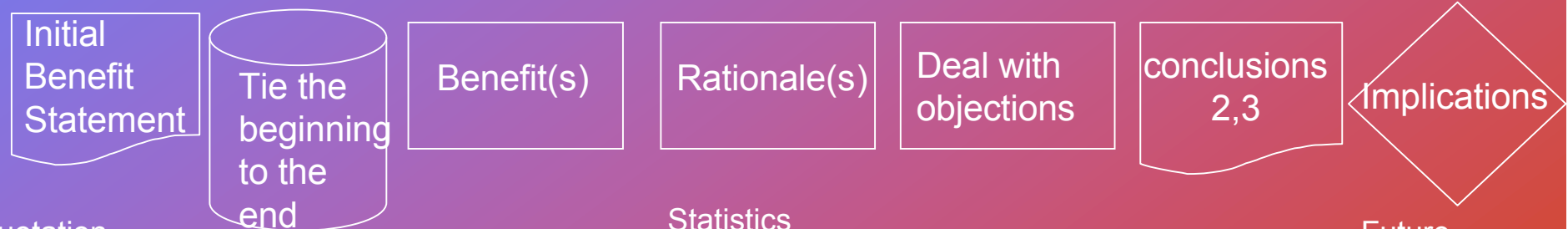
- Writing the final chapter of your thesis is a social process
- Treat it as an interaction
- Anticipate how people will respond to it

Written 'presentation': The final chapter

AUDIENCE FRAME OF REFERENCE



WRITER DELIVERY SEQUENCE



Quotation
Bold statement
Research Q

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Literature
Your contribution

Statistics
Analogy
Facts
Experience
Results

Future research



A Seven Step Approach

- Step 1: Why should I read your final chapter?
- Step 2: What's are your three big ideas?
- Step 3: Benefits
- Step 4: Rationale
- Step 5: Dealing with objections and limitations
- Step 6: Conclusions
- Step 7: Implications for Future Research

Thesis structure

- Chapter 1 Introduction and overview
- Chapter 2 Defining issues
- Chapter 3 Literature review
- Chapter 4 Research method
- Chapter 5 Active research: Your Work
- Chapter 6 Active research: Your Work
- Chapter 7 Conclusions, implications and identification of further research.
Fitting it back into the literature

Step 1: The Opening

- Quotation
- Bold Statement

Introduction and overview of this chapter

- Introduces thesis question
- Provides context from a discipline and general perspective.
 - Why was it important to study this topic?
 - What was being explored?
- What were the fundamental question/s explored in the thesis?
- What was the thesis scope?

Defining key issues.....

- Remind the reader of your terms and briefly justify your definitions.
- If well written, the overview will act as a reference for the reader's progress.

Step 3: Benefits

- This is where you make your argument about the value of the thesis to the discipline area
- Remind the reader that the literature is the heart of the thesis

Some hints ...

- Look for scope though
 - Themes
 - Patterns
 - Areas covered and missed
 - Link literature to your thesis and its question/s

Some more hints ...

- Read literature review sections of quality articles to see if anyone has taken a holistic view
- Make comments on what you observe, justifying them
- Comment on your contribution to the literature through your study

Remain detached until relationships *fall out*

- Let the literature speak to you
- Don't get committed to a particular viewpoint.
- Stay loose.
- Let relationships and conclusions between the literature and your thesis fall out
- Grasp the literature analytically
- Draw together relevant literatures and your study's conclusions

Step 4: Rationale

- S Statistics
- A Analogies
- F Facts
- E Experience
- R Results

Research method

- Emerges from literature but also has its own literature
- Composition
 - Issues in research approach
 - The research philosophy of this thesis
 - Implications of this research philosophy

Step 5: Deal with objections and limitations

- Think of thesis limitations and argue why you have taken your approach
- Anticipate objections of examiners, raise them and argue them away

Step 6: Conclusions

- Ties the beginning to the end
- Provides a general context from a discipline and general perspective.
 - Why was it important to study this topic?
 - What was explored?
- Reiterate the fundamental question/s explored in the thesis.
- Reiterate thesis scope.

Step 7: Implications

- Connects the main arteries to the heart of the thesis (literature review) and often the sections read by examiners

Conclusions, implications and identification of further research

- Lead the examiner to further research opportunities that fall out of this thesis
- Identify implications for theory
- Identify implications for practice
- Contribution of conceptual model to business literature
- Contribution of model components to business literature

Thesis Structure

- Chapter 1 Introduction and overview of thesis
- Chapter 2 Defining Issues
- Chapter 3 Literature review
- Chapter 4 Research method
- Chapter 5 Case study results
- Chapter 6 Survey results
- Chapter 7 Conclusions, implications and further research needs

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Thesis Structure

- Chapter 1 Introduction and overview of this dissertation • 1
 - Chapter 2 Defining Issues • 2
 - Chapter 3 Literature review • 3
 - Chapter 4 • 4
 - Chapter 4 Research method • 5
 - Chapter 5 Case study results • 6
 - Chapter 6 Survey results • 6
 - Chapter 7 Conclusions • 7
- Originality
- Substance

The final chapter of your thesis ...

- Locates your work in the community of scholars to which you aspire to belong

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What

Are the big points/conclusions of my thesis?

Why

Are my conclusions original and substantive?

How

(especially in the context of my literature review) do my Conclusions constitute an increase in the sum of Communicable knowledge?

Where

Would future research projects be directed to create future advances in understanding?

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Reference

G. A. Miller 1956 'The Magical Number Seven, Plus or Minus Two: Some Limits on our Capacity for Processing Information' *The Psychological Review* 63:81-97.

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