Thesis title

Student name

Student number

Course code

Study programme

Date

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Preface

Any personal notes, such acknowledgements, that are not relevant to the contents of the report.

# Introduction (page numbering starts here)

## Short title referring to the problem addressed in your thesis

Introduction to the problem (add any references relevant to this part, and if you do, be sure to include them in the reference list at the end of the document. Even better would be to use a reference manager like Endnote, Zotero, or Mendeley, as they can make your reference list for you). Start broad and then slowly zoom in on the exact problem you are addressing.

The introduction chapter is probably very similar to your proposal, the biggest difference being the time: whereas your proposal is written in future tense, the introduction to your proposal is written in past tense.

## Objective and research questions

This thesis aims to...

The research questions are

1. Research question?
2. Research question?
3. Research question?
4. Research question?

## Methodology

Research Question 1 will be addressed by...

Research Question 2 will be addressed by...

Research Question 3 will be addressed by...

Research Question 4 will be addressed by...

It is often best to keep this section brief and to write a separate chapter where you explain the methodology in more detail. This way you can limit the length of the introduction, link the methodology to the research questions here, and explain the methodology in more detail in a separate chapter. This also gives you the freedom to explain the methodology in whatever order works best, regardless of the link to the research questions.

# Conceptual framework

Give each chapter a good title and some indicative terms to give an idea what the chapter will be about. As you progress with reading and perhaps writing other chapters, insert any references, keywords, or statements that will help developing the text when you start writing this chapter.

Chapter 2 is often, but not always, a literature review and/or a conceptual framework.

# Methodology

Chapter 3 is often, but not always, the chapter that describes the methodology in more detail than in the introduction.

# Chapter xx

And so on...

# Results

Sometimes it helps to sketch your expected results with empty tables and graphs. For example, Table 1 shows how you could sketch the possible results from a financial analysis of agriculture. Note that you don't fill in the numbers (you don't know them yet), but you just give the column and row names.

Table 1: Always include a caption for tables and figures. Table captions go above the table. In the text you refer to the table number.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Small farm | Intermediate farm | Big farm |
| Labour costs |  |  |  |
| Fertilizer costs |  |  |  |
| Revenues |  |  |  |
| Profits |  |  |  |

Figure 1 gives an example of how you could sketch a possible result from an analysis of historical carbon emissions. Note that you don't give the graph (you don't know that yet), but you just describe the axes.



Figure 1: Always include a caption for tables and figures. Figure captions go below the figure. In the text you refer to the figure number.

# Discussion and conclusions

## Discussion

Take a step back and reflect on your research and its results. What were the limitations? How did the limitations influence your results? If this were a report to a policy maker, what would be the caveats that the policy maker should take into account when reading your conclusions? Do your results make sense? How do your results compare to other, similar studies?

## Conclusions and recommendations

What are the main lessons we should take from your research? What should policy makers do with your results? What advice can you give researchers for further research?

References

Journal articles:

Authors, year. Article title. *Journal title*. Volume(issue): pages. URL[[1]](#footnote-1).

Example:

Groeneveld, R.A., Springborn, M. and Costello, C. 2014. Repeated experimentation to learn about a flow-pollutant threshold. *Environmental and Resource Economics* 58(4):627-647. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10640-013-9713-4.

Reports and books:

Authors, year. *Report title*. Place published: Publisher. URL1

Example:

Groeneveld, R.A., Bouwman, A.F., Kruitwagen, S., and Van Ierland, E.C. 1998. *An environmental and economic model to assess the abatement costs of nitrate leaching in dairy farming*. Bilthoven, the Netherlands: National Institute of Public Health and the Environment. https://www.rivm.nl/bibliotheek/rapporten/715651009.pdf.

Chapters in books:

Authors, year. Chapter title. in Editors (Eds.), *Book title* (pp. pages). Place published: publisher. URL1

Groeneveld, R.A., Kruseman, G., & van Ierland, E.C. 2003. Global warming and the economics of land-use and land-cover change. In A.J. Dolman, A. Verhagen, & C.A. Rovers (Eds.), *Global Environmental Change and Land Use* (pp. 53-66). Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers. http://dx/doi.org/ 10.1007/978-94-017-0335-2\_3

Appendix A

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1. URLs based on the publication's DOI are preferred. Use them whenever a DOI is available. The URL is http://dx.doi.org/[DOI] as in the example. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)