

Box 5.6 Typical content of individual chapters

Chapter 1: Introduction

General background information on the project
The research problem
Purpose of the study
Hypotheses or research questions
Scope of the study
Significance of the study
Definitions of key terms
Organization of the thesis

Chapter 2: Literature review

General review of relevant literature
Specific topics directly relating to the issue under investigation
How previous research suggests the study is important to do
The gap in the research that the study will fill

Chapter 3: Conceptual framework and/or methodology

Research design
Methods used to collect data
Research instruments
Methods used to analyse the data
Details about who, how, when and why
For ethnography, description of the setting and participants
Issues of ethics and consent

Chapter 4: Results

The findings of the study, described under themes that emerged from the data, under the research questions or under the data collection techniques that were used

Chapter 5: Discussion and conclusions

A re-statement of the research problem
A re-statement of results
Discussion of what was found in relation to previous research on the topic
Limitations of the study
Implications for future research
Consent

Box 5.1 A 'simple' traditional thesis

Degree: MEd *Study area:* Education
Title: Rater consistency and judgment in the direct assessment of second-language writing ability

Chapter 1: Introduction

The nature of the problem
Origins of the study
Focus and structure of the thesis

Chapter 2: Literature review

Introduction
Performance assessment
Performance assessment and reliability
Conclusion

Chapter 3: Methodology

Introduction
Selection of research design, setting, informants and texts
Data collection and analysis
Conclusion

Chapter 4: Results

Introduction
Degree of rater consistency
Interpretation and application of performance criteria
Raters' reading strategies
Influences on rater judgments of writing ability
Conclusion

Chapter 5: Discussion

Introduction
Degree of rater consistency
Interpretation and application of performance criteria
Raters' reading strategies
Influences on rater judgments of writing ability
Conclusion

Chapter 6: Conclusions and recommendations

Source: Paltridge 2002: 138–139

Box 5.3 A topic-based thesis

Degree: MA *Study area:* Cultural studies
Title: Unworldly places: Myth, memory and the Pink and White Terraces

Chapter 1: Introduction

Disappearing wonders

Chapter 2: Plotting

Travels of colonial science
Plotting destinations

Chapter 3: Sightseeing

Topophilic tourism
Site specifics
Painting the place and myth
Souvenering the site

Chapter 4: Astral travel

Mnemonic tours in the 'new wonderland'
Memory tours
The buried village: Embalmed history
Living out the past
Museumising the past: Sanctioned memory

Chapter 5: Postscript

Source: Paltridge 2002: 140