

# How to write a Thesis

## Introduction

- 'Keep it short!!!' (*max. 4-5 pages*)

### Write:

- what is already known
- what is not known/the issues in the field
- what am I going to do in this thesis to bridge these gaps?
  - In chapter 2, 'we will...' (*Each chapter is one publication*)
  - In chapter 3, 'we will...'
  - In chapter 4, 'we will...'
  - .
  - .
  - .
- Use 'Boxes' for well-known information (copy and paste from previous dissertations, e.g. 'Characteristics of Parkinson's disease', 'Characteristics of Freezing of gait', ..., etc.)

*This makes the actual text more readable and people who are already experts on the topics in the boxes can easily skip those...*

## Chapters:

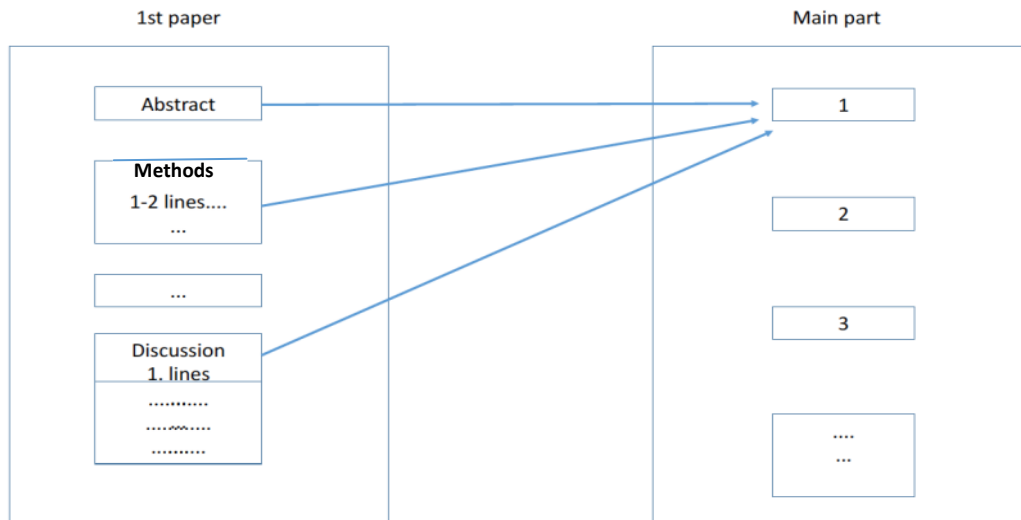
Just copy and paste your papers integrally into the chapters.

## Discussion:

- Keep it short! – just a little bit longer than the Introduction  
*(the following (Main/summary) part is the most (sometimes even only) read part in the whole thesis):*

### Write:

- 1) Main (summary) part:
  - *From each chapter/paper:*
    - **Copy and paste** the abstract
    - *Depending on the abstract: add 1-2 extra lines from the Methods section, so that readers really understand the approach that you used*
    - **Copy and paste** the first paragraph of the discussion (*this is usually the summary of what you have done and found*) and integrate this with the final sentences of the abstract
  - *Repeat for all of your chapters*



## 2) Interpretation:

*“Take a glass (or bottle) of wine, lean back, look at the previous part and let it sink in before you start the summary/interpretation part”*

(estimated duration: about 1 week)

- Find 3-4 main messages which arch over all your findings (for example: “In chapters 3 and 6, we found ...”
- Discuss each of those in a separate paragraph

## 3) Shortcomings/limitation

- One paragraph like you usually write in a paper

## 4) Future outlook

- One paragraph like you usually write in a paper (without giving away your most intimate and secret plans, keep it global)

## Presentation at your defense:

- Keep it simple: the presentation is for lay people, not colleagues.
- Stay WITHIN the maximum time of 10 minutes. Better aim to finish one minute earlier than being forced to stop
- Use many illustrations (photo’s, figures etc) and little text on you slides
- You don’t need to discuss everything; rather discuss a part of your thesis well (illustrative of the complete thesis) than everything in a rush.