

## Campusweite Schreibwerkstatt

### Introduction and Conclusion

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Introduction and Conclusion are the frame of a paper. They contextualize the paper within the existing scientific discourse. Through the introduction, the reader can find an orientation with regard to the text. This explains why both these parts should be written with special care and must be adjusted on each other. In scientific literature, certain formal contents have been established.

The following essential information must not be left out:

#### Introduction

- **Approach to the topic** (beginning e.g. with a citation, an example, a reference to history or current events, contradictions, surprising assertions, ...)
- **Thesis/Research question and aims of your paper:** What does my paper deal with? Which thesis/research question do I want to discuss or answer? Why is this topic important?
- **Current research** on this topic: Which aspects are already known? What knowledge gaps do exist in research? With regard to academic research: Where in scientific discourse does my paper fit in?
- **Method:** How do I approach the topic? Which method(s) do I use to gain new insights?
- **Reasons for the boundaries** of the paper: What do I write about? What aspects do I leave out and why? What do I focus on as main topic? How do I justify this specific interest?
- **Structure** of the paper: In what chapters/logical order do I structure my paper? How do I approach and deal with my topic?

#### Conclusion

- **Thesis and method:** What thesis/research question did I have and in how did I proceed to answer it?
- **Result:** What is my result?
- **Relevance of my result:** What is new and important about the result? What practical use or what use for current scientific research does my result have?
- **Desideratum of research:** Which aspect would research have to focus on next? Are there interesting research topics I had to leave out due to restricted space, which would be relevant to do further research on? Which questions/topics/problems did occur during my work on this paper, that would be worthwhile pursuing? What research could adjoin my results?

You can find an example for a good introduction (in German!) in: Kornmeier, Martin: Wissenschaftlich Schreiben leicht gemacht. Für Bachelor, Master und Dissertation. Bern u.a.: Haupt 2008, S. 104-106.



