

HOW TO



SURVIVE YOUR STUDIES



RHEINISCHE FRIEDRICH-WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT BONN GROUP

SOCIAL ETHICS

WARM WELCOME!

We are very happy that you have found your way to the Department of Social Ethics at the University of Bonn.

In this booklet, we've put together some important information about academic work in the field of ethics:

First, some basics and formal requirements of academic writing. Second, a list of tips and tricks to make your research and writing process easier.

You can also find these tips (and lots of other interesting content) on our Instagram page, don't hesitate to take a look!



We hope that this booklet will make it easier for you to start your study journey.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at any time!

Good luck!

Your Department of Social Ethics at the University of Bonn



TABLE OF CONTENTS How to...

- 5 ... write on an academic level
- 21 ... research
- 29 ... manage references
- 42 ... organize your thoughts
- 53 ... write an abstract
- 61 ... proofread
- ... design a scientific poster

GENERAL NOTES





ACADEMIC WRITING





TITLE PAGE

University of Bonn
[Name of the subject]
[Name of the course]
Winter/summer semester [year]
[Name of the lecturer]



[Title of your work]

[Your name] [Your email] [Your matriculation number]



TITLE PAGE

University of Bonn
Protestant Theology
Theory and Ethics of Ioneliness
Winter semester 2024/25
Prof. Dr. Matthias Braun



Loneliness. Exploring Ethical Dimensions of Social Isolation in Modern Society

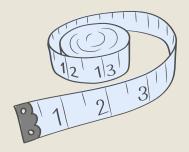
Jane Doe jdoe1@uni-bonn.de

Matriculation number: 12345678





LENGTH



Essay

7 pages

Pre seminar paper (Proseminararbeit)

15 pages

Main seminar paper (Hauptseminararbeit)

25 pages

The number of pages refers to the written text without title page, table of contents and bibliography.

A deviation of 10 % is accepted.





FORMAT

font size 11

line spacing 1.5



margins



2.5 cm



bottom

2 cm

use page numbers

cover page and table of contents without page numbers

use chapter headings





LANGUAGE





GENERALLY ACCEPTED

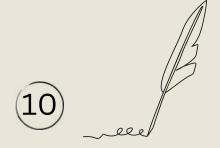


IN AGREEMENT WITH THE LECTURER IN MOST CASES POSSIBLE

If you are an international student or an Erasmus student, you can of course do your writing in English.

The language of examination depends on the examination regulations and study program you are in. You can ask your lecturer or the study office for further information.





CITATION & BIBLIOGRAPHY



use a consistent citation style



bibliography sorting

alphabetically



OR

differentiate between **primary** and **secondary** literature

distinguish
between direct
and indirect
citations

Pre seminar paper (Proseminararbeit)

Main seminar paper (Hauptseminararbeit)

10-12 titles

at least 20 titles





CITE ONLY TITLES YOU ACTUALLY USED IN YOUR WORK!



DECLARATION OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I hereby declare that my exam on the topic ______ was produced by myself without any unauthorized assistance, that it has not been submitted for examination here or at any other university and that it has not been published in whole or in part. I have marked the parts – including tables, maps, illustrations, etc. – that have been taken from other works, either verbatim or in meaning, in each individual case.

If this concerns a bachelor's or master's thesis in need of submission in both print and a digital format I further declare that the content of the text file of the digital format is identical with the submitted print versions.

First and Last Name in Block Letters

Place, Date, Signature



SUBMISSION





In general, the paper is submitted digitally as a PDF.

In rare cases, the work must be printed out and sent to the following address:

Department of Social Ethics & Ethics of Technology
[please insert the supervisor of your paper here]
Faculty of Protestant Theology

University of Bonn Rabinstraße 8 53111 Bonn







Don't be shy!

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU! C

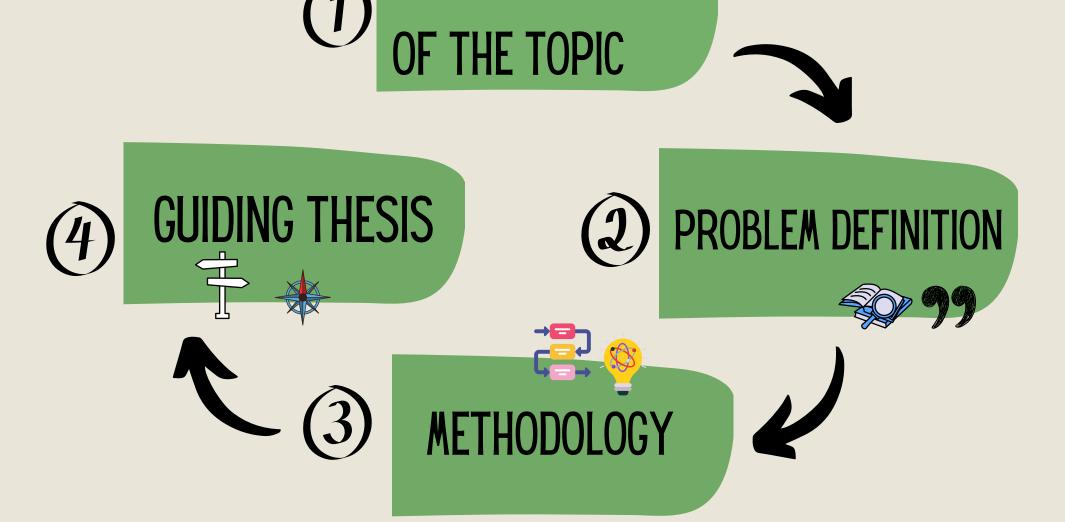
Don't hesitate to ask - there are no stupid questions







INTRODUCTION







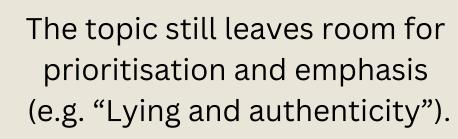








DELIMITATION OF THE TOPIC



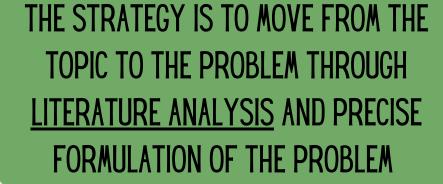




PROBLEM DEFINITION

Present the problem and formulate a research question (e.g. "Is it possible to lie authentically?").

Your paper answers this question.















(3) METHODOLOGY

OR

Why did I choose this method?

Why did I choose this problem?

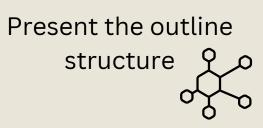
Analytical/
hermeneutic methods:
theoretical-conceptual
or normative questions

Empirical methods: qualitative or quantitative



GUIDING THESIS

Formulate a hypothesis (which also creates orientation for yourself)





MAIN PART

1 CONTENT

The main part is the **discussion** of the problem



Organize with **subheadings**



Do not simply reproduce literature, but **take a position** yourself and discuss it **critically**





MAIN PART

(2) EVALUATION CRITERIA

= stringency, coherence & quality of...

... problem statement and research question



... hypothesis



... methodology



... judgement





CONCLUSION



reminder of the problem definition



summarizing with reference to the hypothesis



formulate your own position









TO BE AVOIDED:
EXPRESSING OPINIONS ABOUT WHAT COULD BE
RESEARCHED IN THE FUTURE





HOW TO



RESEARCH











What is the topic of your paper



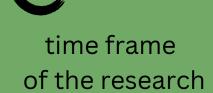












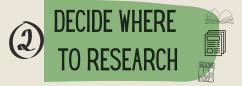


aim of
research
(publication, talk, ...,
overview or details?)













ARTICLES



A) ONLINE SEARCH
DATABASES

MONOGRAPHS



B) UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

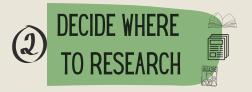
JOURNALS



C) IN-JOURNAL SEARCH











A) ONLINE SEARCH DATABASES



grey literature

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Scopus

included

biomedical focus selected articles

combines several databases

peer-reviewed articles only

ARTICLES

crushing mass

not all

B) UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

MONOGRAPHS



Worldcat

worldwide

Bonnus

university of bonn



JOURNALS

C) TOPICS / JOURNAL SEARCH



Protestant Ethics

ZEE

Bioethics/ **Medical Ethics**

> **AJOB JME** Cell

AI & Ethics

AI & Ethics Big Data & Society Science and Engineering Ethics













SEARCH STRATEGY I

SEARCH STRATEGY II



medicine OR ethics OR

NOT medicine NOT ethics

"medicine" AND ethics

medic* AND ethics

Find synonyms!

Check key words!

Don't get lost in details!



SKIMMING & SCANNING III



check title & year



read abstracts of promising results

read sections or chapters of the results





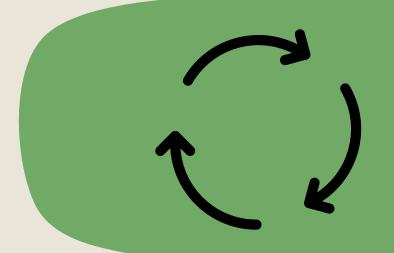








CHECK THE BIBLIOGRAPHY



Researches are ITERATIVE processes.













create a library

save the literature







create a summary



save the results & your impressions!





NOTES ~







HOW TO

MANAGE

REFERENCES



HOW TO MANAGE REFERENCES





PRINCIPLES OF CITATION





ESTABLISH A GOOD WORKFLOW







HAVE A CENTRAL PLACE WHERE YOU KEEP THE REFERENCES







MAY VARY DEPENDING ON YOUR FIELD AND WORKFLOW





MAKE SURE TO ALWAYS CITE YOUR SOURCES!

BE CLEAR AND CONSISTENT (AGAIN!): STYLE (APA, MLA, ...) AND FORMAT DEPEND ON THE FIELD, DISCIPLINE OR JOURNAL

BE PRECISE WHEN QUOTING:

USE THE EXACT WORDING, SPELLING, AND PUNCTUATION OF THE ORIGINAL SOURCE. EVEN IF IT IS INCORRECT OR MISSPELLED. YOU CAN THEN MARK IT WITH [SIC].

> citation guidelines from the university







(3)









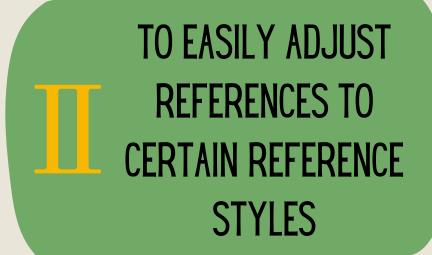












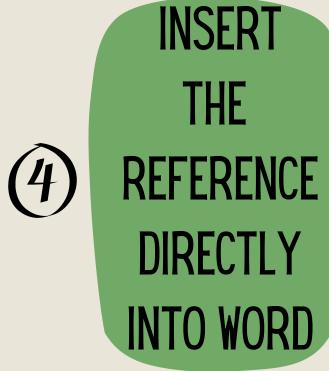
WHY USE A REFERENCE MANAGER TOOL ?















INSERT A TITLE
- MANUALLY OR
AUTOMATICALLY











INSERT INTO WORD

THINK ABOUT...

... WHAT YOU WANT
TO USE THE TOOL

AS AN ARCHIVE OR
AS A WAY TO STRUCTURE
YOUR WORK?

FOR:

... FEATURES
YOU NEED:

USER-FRIENDLINESS,
CITATION STYLE OPTIONS,
COLLABORATION OPTIONS,
PLUG-IN OPTIONS, STORAGE,
BUDGET, ...?

EXAMPLES:



FREE WARE, COMPATIBILITY WITH

MANY SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

EndNote[™]

LICENSE MODEL, MORE FUNCTIONS
THAN ZOTERO, E.G. CREATING
YOUR OWN CITATION STYLE











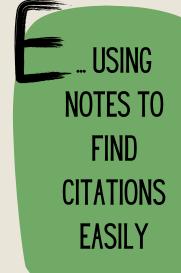
(YOU CAN) ORGANIZE AND STRUCTURE YOUR REFERENCE MANAGEMENT TOOL BY





... CREATING
DIFFERENT
COLLECTIONS FOR
DIFFERENT
PROJECTS YOU ARE
WORKING ON





IT SHOULD BE TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS











INSERT TITLES ...

MANUALLY

OR

AUTOMATICALLY

BE ACCURATE!
DON'T MISS ANY INFORMATION!
ALWAYS DOUBLE-CHECK!

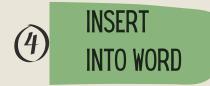












INSERT TITLES OR A BIBLIOGRAPHY INTO WORD ...

MANUALLY

OR

WITH A PLUG-IN

CHECK FOR PLUG-INS
TO INSERT REFERENCES OR THE ENTIRE BIBLIOGRAPHY
FROM YOUR TOOL DIRECTLY INTO THE DOCUMENT.



KEEP IN MIND:

ALWAYS DOUBLE-CHECK

YOUR REFERENCES WHEN
YOU FINISH A WRITING
PROJECT!

BE CONSISTENT

WITH STYLE AND FORMAT!



CHECK FOR LICENCES FROM
YOUR UNIVERSITY OR WORKPLACE!





NOTES ~





HOW TO

ORGANIZE



YOUR THOUGHTS



HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR THOUGHTS





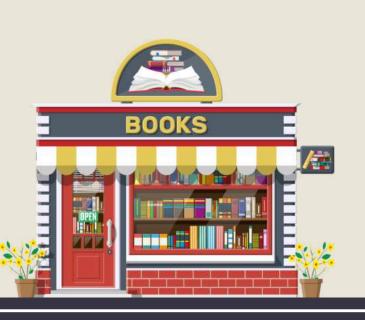








INSPIRATION CAN COME FROM EVERYTHING - A BOOK, A PODCAST, OR A FLASH OF INSIGHT.







BE ATTENTIVE!





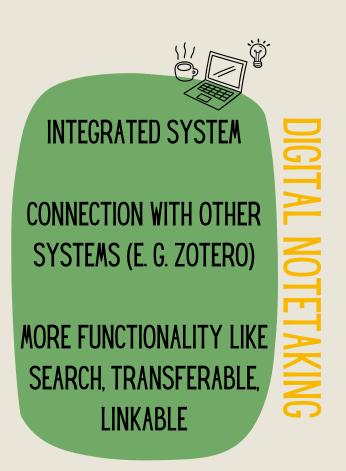






OFTEN, YOUR THOUGHTS AREN'T USEFUL RIGHT AWAY BUT THEY ARE LATER ON. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO SAVE YOUR THOUGHTS!





KEEP IT SIMPLE! JUST START WITH ONE SYSTEM AND GATHER EXPERIENCE





: FREE TO USE AND OPEN FORMAT,

OBSIDIAN IS A GREAT SOFTWARE TO ORGANIZE YOUR THOUGHTS.

THINK ABOUT THE SOFTWARE AS A GARDEN:

ALL IDEAS ARE
SAPLINGS.
HOPEFULLY,
THEY WILL GROW
INTO A BIG TREE,
STANDING WITHIN A
NETWORK OF
IDEAS.







OFFICIAL AND COMMUNITY PLUG-INS ALLOW FOR COMPLETELY NEW FUNCTIONALITIES:

ORGANIZE YOUR TO- DOS IN OBSIDIAN



• LINK IT WITH ZOTERO



• SYNCHRONIZE YOUR DATA ON SEVERAL DEVICES



• VISUALIZE YOUR IDEAS IN AN INTERACTIVE GRAPH



AND SO MUCH MORE ...











WHEN SAVING YOUR IDEAS, TRY TO LINK THEM TO YOUR EXISTING NOTES AND IDEAS.

CONNECTING THEMES
AND TOPICS



REFERENCES (DATE, PERSON, SITUATION)



MAP OF CONTENTS



OVER TIME, A NETWORK OF THOUGHTS WILL EMERGE















COME BACK TO YOUR IDEAS ONCE IN A WHILE, WHEN:

READING A CONNECTED TEXT

WORKING ON A RELATED IDEA



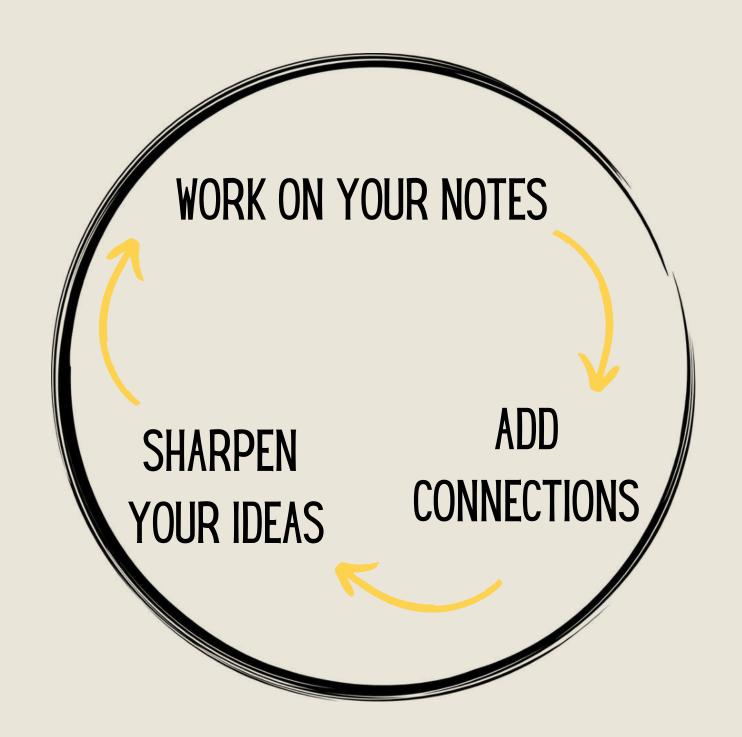
















PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

I USE OBSIDIAN ON A DAILY BASIS.



TASKS,
MEETINGS,
LINKS TO
CURRENT PROJECTS



SUMMARIES OF THE TEXTS
I'VE READ WITH CONNECTIONS
TO ALL RELEVANT IDEAS



WRITING NOTES:

SNIPPETS THAT
EVENTUALLY MERGE TO
A FULL-FLEDGED TEXT



BUCKET LISTS:

GIFT LISTS, IDEAS FOR LATER



If you have questions, feel free to contact Lorenz Garbe: lgarbe@uni-bonn.de



NOTES ~







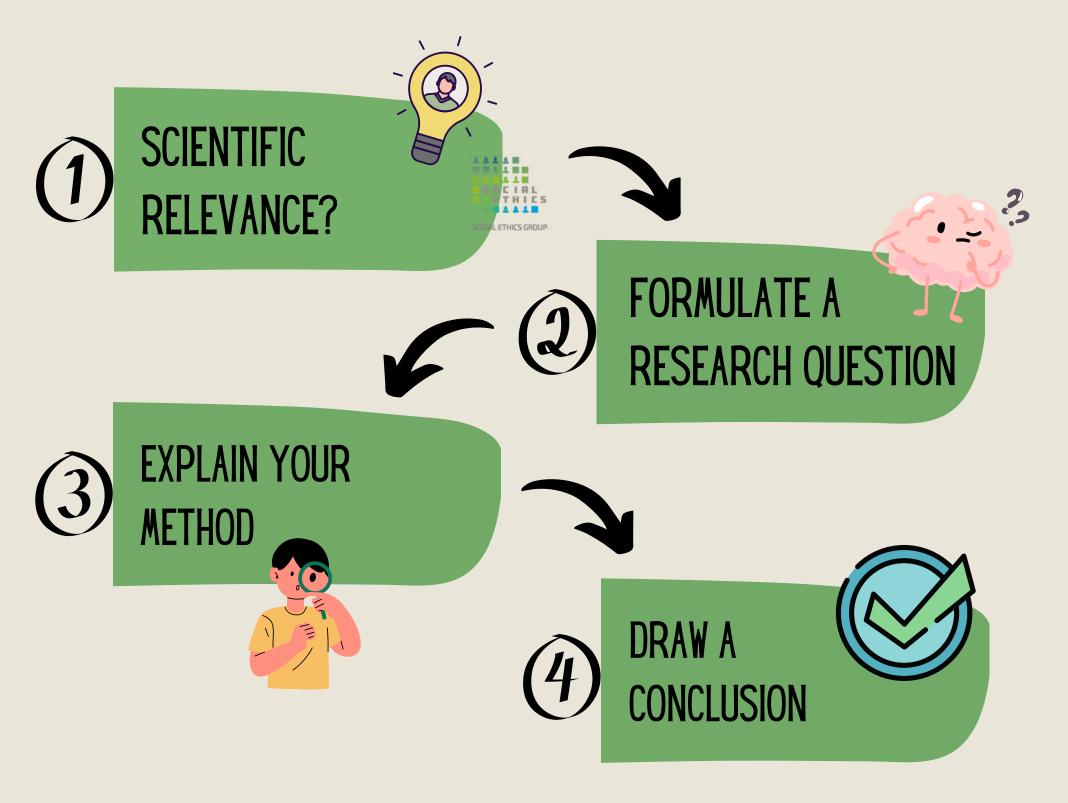
HOW TO WRITE



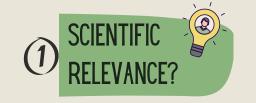
AN ABSTRACT



HOW TO WRITE AN ABSTRACT













START DESCRIBING THE PROBLEM



WHY IS YOUR RESEARCH IMPORTANT

1

AQUIRE A THOROUGH KNOWLEGDE
OF YOUR RESEARCH FIELD IN ORDER
TO IDENTIFY OPEN QUESTIONS THAT
YOU CAN WORK ON.

2

EXPLAIN HOW YOUR RESEARCH CAN ADRESS THE OBSERVED PROBLEM AND BRING THE FIELD FORWARD.













ABOVE ALL: BE CLEAR ON YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION!



BEGIN YOUR QUESTION WITH "HOW" OR "WHAT" (NOT "WHY")





STATE THE KEY IDEA / CENTRAL PHENOMENON YOU WANT TO EXPLORE





BE PRECISE (AVOID VAGUE TERMS)
AND SPECIFIC!





ADD-ON FOR EMPIRICAL RESEARCH:

NAME PARTICIPANTS / RESEARCH SITE / COUNTRY











NEXT STEP: YOUR WORKING THESIS!

A HYPOTHESIS IS THE MOST LIKELY SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM.



YOU TEST A HYPOTHESIS GIVEN BY ANOTHER SCHOLAR.

1.OUTLINE THE HYPOTHESIS.

2. EXPLAIN WHY IT DOES NOT SOLVE THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PROBLEM SUFFICIENTLY.

3. COME UP WITH A NEW HYPOTHESIS AND EXPLAIN WHY IT IS BETTER SUITED TO DO THE JOB.

B) "BUILD A NEW HYPOTHESIS"

YOU COME UP WITH YOUR OWN HYPOTHESIS.

1.REFER TO THE CURRENT
RESEARCH GAP: WHAT CAN YOUR
HYPOTHESIS EXPLAIN THAT
OTHERS CANNOT?
2. WHICH THINKERS CAN HELP TO
BRIDGE THE GAP?
3. PROVIDE A POSSIBLE ANSWER TO
THE PROBLEM.













WHICH METHOD DO YOU USE?

PICK A METHOD



NAME THE
TRADITION IN
WHICH YOUR WORK
IS ANCHORED.

EXPLANATION



EXPLAIN
HOW THE
METHOD WORKS.

JUSTIFICATION



WHY IS IT THE

BEST METHOD TO

TACKLE THE

PROBLEM?















SUMMARIZE YOUR FINDINGS

POINT TOWARDS OPEN QUESTIONS

WHICH ANSWERS CAN BE DERIVED FROM YOUR HYPOTHESIS?

WHICH DETAILS STILL NEED TO BE WORKED OUT?

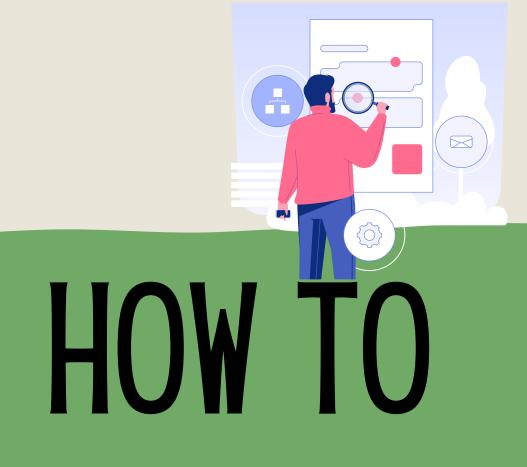


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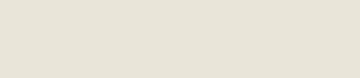
NOTES ~







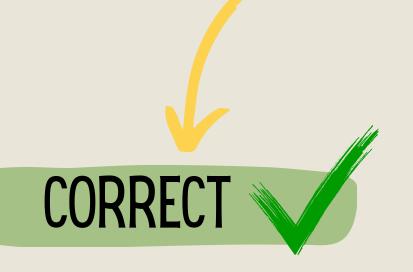
PROOFREAD





WHY PROOFREAD?

ENSURES THAT YOUR TEXT IS ...





- **GOOD IMPRESSION**
- NO MISUNDERSTANDINGS
- TARGET GROUP-ORIENTED





WORKFLOW

1

CLARIFY DEADLINE: PLAN YOUR STEPS



2

FIRST READ: FIND MISTAKES



3

SECOND READ: EDIT FURTHER



4

THIRD READ: PROOFREAD YOUR PROOFREADING



FIRST READ: FIND MISTAKES

CORRECT SPELLINGS, GRAMMAR, AND PUNCTUATION MISTAKES

CHANGE DIRECTLY IN THE TEXT (TRACK YOUR CHANGES)



ENGLISH TEXTS: BE AWARE OF AE OR BE SPECIFICS

PRO TIP: SEARCH FOR INVISIBLE PUNCTUATIONS



SECOND READ: EDIT FURTHER

CHECK IF...

FORMATTING
IS CONSISTENT
(CITATION STYLE,
FOOTNOTES ...)

ALL TE

ALL TERMS ARE DEFINED C

USE OF TERMS IS CONSISTENT



WORDING AND
FORMULATIONS
ARE SUITABLE FOR
TARGET GROUP





... AND FURTHER



ON THE CONTENT

ADD COMMENTS....

ON STRUCTURE & ARGUMENTATION:

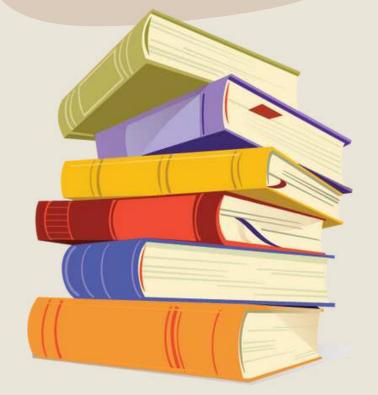
- 1. CLEAR RESEARCH QUESTION, THESIS, METHOD?
- 2. ONE ARGUMENT PER PARAGRAPH, CONNECTION?
- 3. CONCLUSION ANSWERS THE RESEARCH QUESTION?



USEFUL TOOLS ...

... TO CHECK ORTHOGRAPHY & GRAMMAR





ENGLISH TEXTS:

PONS,
CAMBRIDGE / OXFORD
DICTIONARY





AND NOW OVER TO YOU:



HAVE YOU FOUND OUR MISTAKE?

NOTES ~





HOW TO DESIGN

A SCIENTIFIC POSTER





HOW TO DESIGN A POSTER





DESIGN YOUR POSTER



THINK ABOUT YOUR STORYLINE





STRUCTURE YOUR THOUGHTS

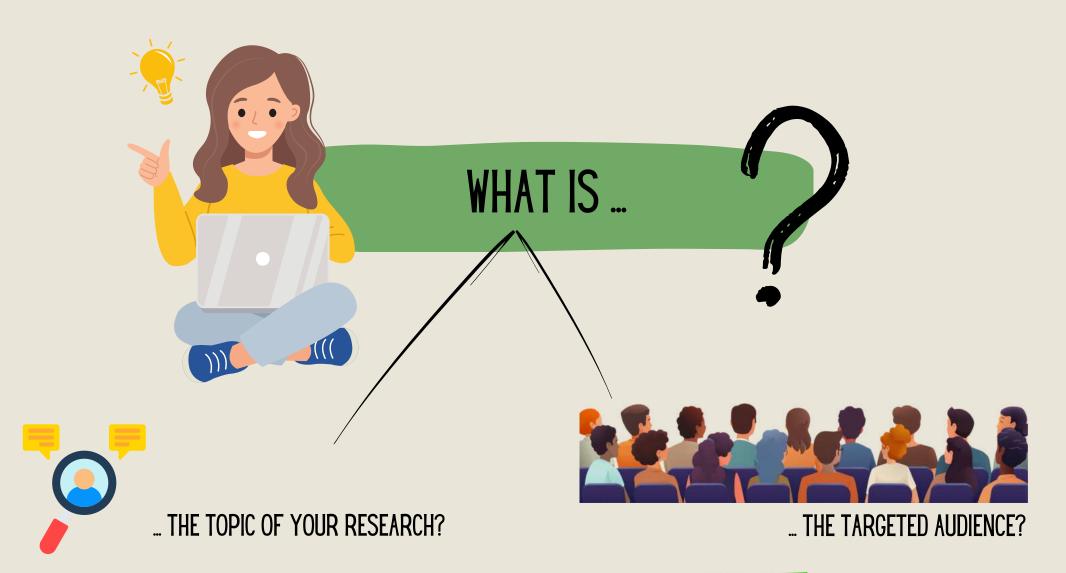


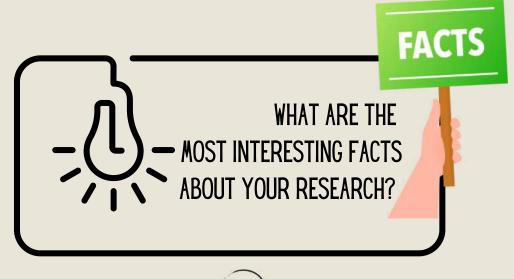
























STORYLINE

THINK OF...





EVERYDAY LIFE SITUATIONS

THAT EVERYONE CAN RELATE TO.



SIMPLE WORDS TO EXPLAIN

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT TO A SMALL CHILD?



UNDERSTANDABLE EXAMPLES

BUILD ANALOGIES TO WELL-KNOWN SITUATIONS

- COOKING TOGETHER IN A SHARED FLAT,
- A SITUATION IN SCHOOL.













STRUCTURE YOUR THOUGHTS



Define the problem statement, research question and the hypothesis.



What's the current state of research?
What is the research gap?



Which methods did you use?



What are the key results?



What do your want your audience to take home? What is your conclusion?















DESIGN YOUR POSTER



ONE FONT

Use only one font and no more than two headline styles.



USE ONE COLOUR SCHEME

LEAVE NEGATIVE SPACE



The Adobe color wheel might help you to find matching colors.

Empty (negative) space is key! 250 words max.













VISUALIZE IT!

USE ...

SOFTWARES

- Canva
- Power Point
- Slides Carnival
- Affinity designer (to pay)

• •



- Google pictures (Setup: Creative Commons, Tip: Add "vector")
- Freepik





- The Noun Project
- Flaticon













PRESENT YOURSELF

ADD ...



PICTURE

Add a picture of yourself to help the audience know who to talk to.

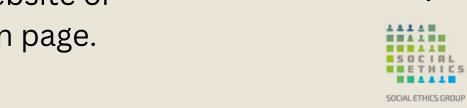


Add the logo of the research institute.

QR-CODE



Add a QR code to your website or LinkedIn page.



NOTES ~









DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL ETHICS & ETHICS OF TECHNOLOGY FACULTY OF PROTESTANT THEOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF BONN RABINSTRABE 8 **53111 BONN**





RHEINISCHE FRIEDRICH-WILHELMS- FÜR UNIVERSITÄT BONN SOZIALETHIK

LEHRSTUHL