

Dissecting a Thesis

Please select one of the sample theses that we provided based on your field of interest. Try to use a thesis that is in your area. Using the sample theses we provided, please answer the following questions. It is not necessary to read the entire thesis to answer the questions. Please read only what is necessary.

1) What kind of thesis is it?

Undergraduate	Masters	Doctoral	Other
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2) What is the major area of study for the thesis?

Read the TITLE ONLY first.

Answer these questions (if you cannot, please state so)?

3) What is the primary question?

4) What is the conclusion/answer to the question?

5) What methods are being used in the thesis?

Next READ THE ABSTRACT (Do not change your answers to the above questions):

6) What is the primary question?

7) What is the conclusion/answer to the question?

8) What methods are being used in the thesis?

9) Describe the sections of the thesis

	Order	Page Count and % of Total Pages
Introduction Section		
Literature Review Section		
Methodology Section		
Analysis		
Conclusion		

10) What major sections are in the thesis, but not included above?

11) How many sources are listed in the works cited/bibliography?

Examine the Thesis for Answers to these Questions:

12) What is a primary argument of the thesis? What is one reason/premise for this argument? Do you believe the argument? What makes you skeptical of the argument?

13) What is the relationship between the topic and the field more broadly? Is it related by theory (what theory)? How else is it related to the audience?

14) How is the thesis organized? What kinds of transitions or connections are made between each of the sections in the thesis?

15) What methodology is used in the thesis? Is it quantitative or qualitative? Is it mixed? What problems and benefits are described about the methodology used?

16) How is the literature review organized? Describe the sections that are used in the literature review.

17) Do you have any comments/critiques of the thesis? What would you have done differently?