

DISCUSSION

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Discussion is an important part of your thesis. In discussion section, you argue scientifically and logically to defend, support and explaining your answers to your problems, questions and hypotheses. Remember that your thesis may not be a perfect one but every effort must be put to test to make your readers understand your findings and the rest leave it to them to anticipate and speculate. In writing your discussion, make sure to include those issues that highly critical and vital while excluding less important issues. Always start with specific and gently state the general issues and applications of your findings to the knowledge.

When writing your discussion, a sound and field tested theory or theories are must be included and must be defended with previous documented evidence. Methodologies and concepts are vital part of your thesis and they strengthen your validity and reliability of your research. Do not deviate from your original terminologies, concepts, patterns and key words that were introduced in your introduction. Take note that always link your results and findings with current and peer reviewed literature so that readers are confident when they read your thesis. It is vital that you must address all your issues such as your problem, research questions and hypotheses one by one and elaborate each considering documented evidence and scholarly work. As from the name suggested, it is discussion section so you must be partial and always argue both sides of the story.

If you don't agree, state scholarly the reasons why your point of view is more reasonable, practical and relevant to our knowledge. Explain how your findings are different from others and link your claims with evidence. If you have conflicting findings, explain and interpret them so that you can make a meaningful, practical and logical presentation. Remember to briefly outline the real-life applications of your findings so that you can answer the question **so what?** As evident from the above discussion, the following outlines may be of help when writing your discussion chapter:

1. States the main points and argues its significance or otherwise by bringing current and relevant evidence to prove or disprove those points. Keep in mind that your discussion section is like a heart of your thesis and must be very healthy and remains focused.

2. Discussion explains the significance of your results and states your main findings. Discussion also tries to give meaning to your investigation.
3. The purpose of discussion is to make your reader comprehend what new knowledge you are introducing.
4. Discussion highlights the evidence and data you collected and relates all of them to make sure that the main issues of the thesis are answered.
5. Discussion emphasizes about other similar studies and relate them to the current issues in the thesis so that your investigation and research are worth of all the hard work and resources.
6. The main point of your discussion is to discover the truth not to prove or disprove something. Always maintain that there are more possible solutions exist in answering your questions rather than to be a one-sided argument.
7. Discussion talks about application of your research to real life and beyond.
8. One of the beauty of discussion is humbleness of the thesis. It discusses the weaknesses and the limitation of the study and keeps room to other peers to continue from where you left unfinished.
9. Discussion section never speculate and keeps focussing to your main issue with confidence. Do not overstate your findings in the discussion section. Do not distract and confuse your readers and stay in one direction and keep the theme of the thesis focused. In discussion, you have a chance to meaningfully interpret your findings and answer your research questions that you posed in your introduction section.

Keep in mind that discussion is a humble presentation of your scientific work and do not be selfish and arrogant about your findings. Have respect to other scholar's work and do not be too critics of them. Do not be defensive, do not attack. If you follow these ethics of research, soon you will realize that you have done a difference in knowledge. As thus in discussion section you have an opportunity to show the beautiful side of doing investigation and keep in mind that sharing is caring.

From the book: Everything You Want to Know about PhD: From Proposal to VIVA.

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