



Quick exposé for my text

In order to get a better idea about and keep track of your topic, you can write a quick exposé about it. In no more than 15 minutes, you answer the following questions in complete sentences. Don't worry about perfect wording, and you don't need to present your answers. The quick exposé is designed to prompt further thinking and discussions.

1. What is your text about, what does it focus on? (topic)

2. What do you want to find out, demonstrate or check? (research question, assumption, hypothesis)

3. What do you want to achieve with this text? Why is this important? (aims)

4. How will you proceed? Which methods of your discipline will you use? (methodology)

5. Which material or data will you work with? (empirical data, primary literature, sources, phenomena)/ What are your selection criteria? Scope of the data? Which specialist literature do you use?



6. What is the state of research you tie on to? Which research gap do you see, what is the issue in your discipline?

7. Which major chapters do you foresee for your text? (table of contents)

8. What is your schedule? Which milestones do you set for yourself?

Which questions did you find difficult to answer, and what do you still need to find out?
Which aids can you use to clarify these uncertainties? (specialist literature, guidebooks or manuals, contact with your supervisors, workshops...)

Such a quick exposé can be a good foundation for:

- data collection and research (key words for your topic, for background information)
- evaluation of and systematic approach to literature
- the beginnings of your table of contents
- developing a schedule
- discussions with your supervisor(s)
- writing an exposé you show to others
- etc.

The quick exposé was developed by Andrea Frank, Stefanie Haacke and Swantje Lahm, published in „Schlüsselkompetenzen - Schreiben in Studium und Beruf“ (Stuttgart: Metzler, 2013², p. 28f.). This worksheet is based on an implementation of this exercise published by Ella Grieshammer, Franziska Liebetanz, Nora Peters and Jana Zegenhagen in „Zukunftsmodell Schreibberatung“ (Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verl. Hohengehren, 2012, p.184f.). Translation from German by Stefanie Everke Buchanan.