



Aalto University  
School of Arts, Design  
and Architecture

# Thesis structure and ingredients

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# Thesis Structure

# Thesis Structure

(feel free to improvise, but . . .)

# Title Page

Title + subtitle; author(s); department/school/university; date; advisors

# Abstract

First sentence: why the work is important?; summary of your output /  
results: what, why, how, what did you learn, why it matters; Final  
sentence: the major implications of your thesis.

# Table of Contents

# List of Figures & List of Tables

# Acknowledgments

# Chapters

1. Introduction
2. Related work / Literature review
3. Methods
4. Results / output
5. Discussion
6. Conclusion

(Recommendations)

References

Appendices

# Introduction

Often written last;

Motivates the reader to continue reading;

Some context: who else have worked with the topic and what (cite)?

Goal of the thesis

Background / context (cite)

Questions / problems you will focus on later in the thesis

What is not included (I know about this stuff, too, but not getting into it in this work)

Narrative "table of content"

# Related work / literature review

Theoretical framework

What is already known

The stuff / things you have found interesting and inspiring

# Methods

What did you do and why?

What methods (invented by others) did you use?

What kind of material / data did you collect and how did you work with it?

Who participated in your project / research?

Workshops?

If someone else would aim to the same goal would he find your choices reasonable?



# Results / output

Description and documentation of your contribution

Documentation

Description how it works

Observations and statement

This is what I found out or produced?

# Discussion

Get back to the related work / literature and explain how your results / output is related to it

How are your results / outputs related? Is there a conflict? Is your work now part of something bigger?

What do we know now that we didn't know earlier?

What people interested in the same topic should do next?

# Conclusion

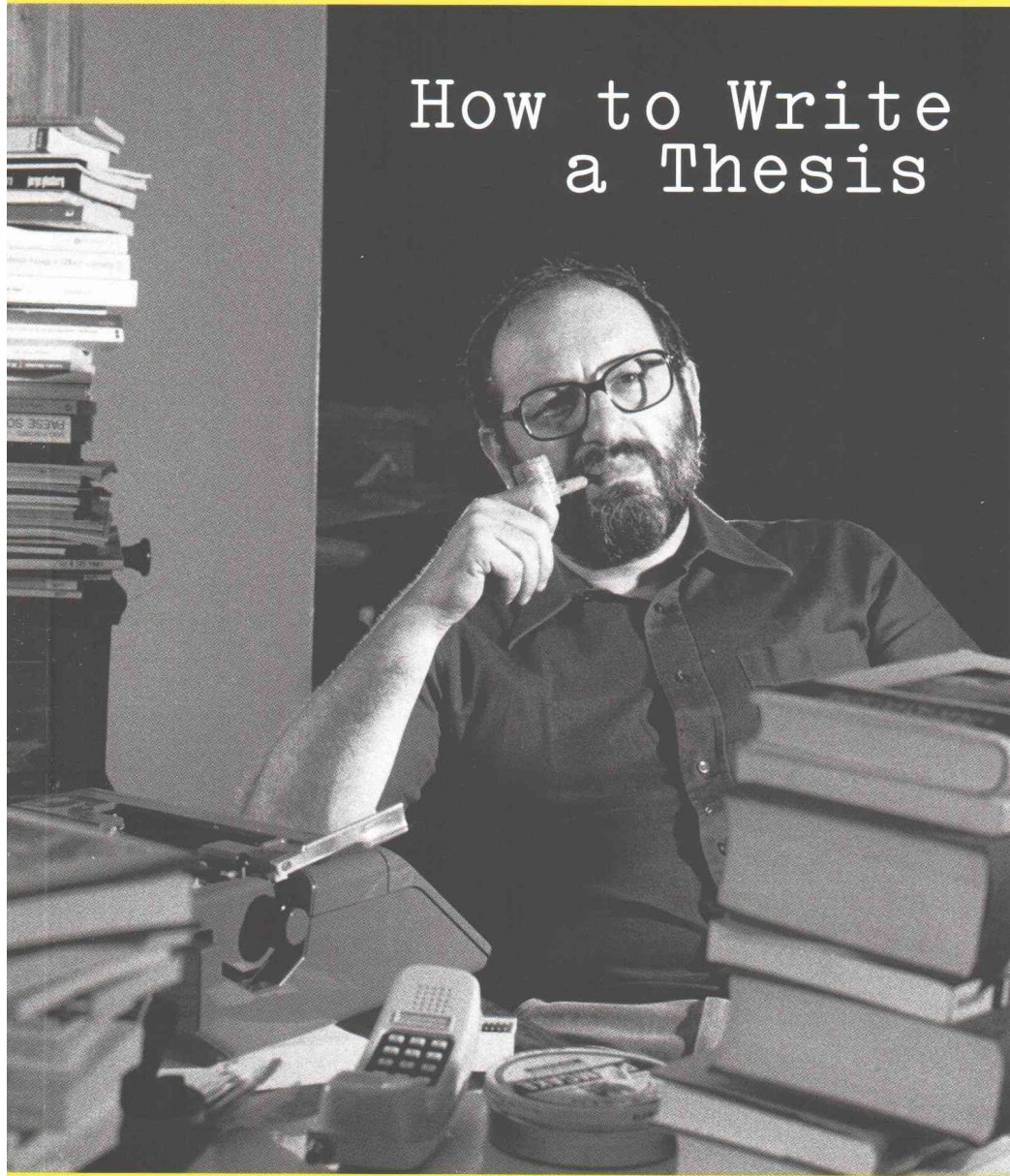
What is the most important result / output of your work?

What are the broader implications of your work?

What the reader should at least remember from your work?

# UMBERTO ECO

## How to Write a Thesis



## Written part of the thesis

Is presenting your work and is a proof that you know what you are talking about.

Is not primary “piece of art” but an “academic” work demonstrating your higher level thinking and meta-skills (reflection).

Is written for the Academia (the World).

Must come with references etc.