THESIS INTRODUCTION OUTLINE SAMPLE

Contents -- Chapters

Abstract

Acknowledgments

1. Introduction:
   - Major research question
     - Subquestion A (to address major research question)
     - Subquestion B (to address major research question)
   - How you came to be interested in your major research question
   - The importance of this question to the community and/or sociology
   - A sentence or two description of each of the chapters to follow

2. Review of the Literature:
   - Introduction
     - Review of literature related to Subquestion A
     - Review of literature related to Subquestion B
   - Brief summary and sentence leading into next chapter

3. Methodology:
   a. Research question and subquestions
   b. Methodology and why you chose this method
   c. Specifics about your methodology -- for example, if you based your study on interviews, write at least several paragraphs about:
      1) your sample
         - who they are
         - how many?
         - how did you select them?
         - why did you select them this way?
         - how did you contact them?
      2) your interview:
         - phone or in person?
         - how long on average?
         - where?
         - when?
         - the nature of your interview schedule
         - did you pretest it? how?
3) indexes you constructed and your means of coding your data.
4) other specifics pertaining to your methodology?

4. Findings pertaining to subquestion A.

5. Findings pertaining to subquestion B.

6. Analysis:

This chapter needs to be based on comparisons. For example, you may wish to compare your findings for different groups within your sample and/or your findings with findings of others which you included in your literature review.

a. Make such comparisons for subquestion A
b. Make such comparisons for subquestion A

7. Summary, Conclusions and Suggestions for Future Research, Policy and Practice:

a. Briefly summarize what you did (from the above)
b. Summarize your conclusions from your analysis
c. Based on your research what research would you recommend that other students and scholars undertake? (This is where you can suggest that others -- or you yourself -- undertake in the future all those things you decided you couldn't manage to do in this project.)
d. Based on your research and analysis, what social policy recommendations would you make to educational institutions, unions, governmental agencies, etc.
e. Based on your research findings and analysis, what recommendations would you make for practice (institutions' and groups implementation of their goals and policies)?

Appendix A: Interview Schedule (if relevant).

Appendix B-?: Other material you think is very important to include with your senior thesis that does not belong in the body of your thesis.

Bibliography of all references cited.