



Thesis Seminar Guidelines

Opposition

The thesis seminar, also called the opposition, is part of the degree project course and each student will receive a grade for that part. The chair of the seminar (the examiner) will guide you through the thesis seminar, explain the time duration and give further instructions. It is your responsibility, as the opponent, to drive the conversation forward, not the seminar chairman. The respondent is the thesis author. During the discussion you should give the author the opportunity to answer your questions and comment on your reflections.

The “key” points:

1. Begin the seminar with a brief overall description of the thesis. Describe what the thesis is about and then give the author (the respondent) the opportunity to answer if you have understood the content correctly. You can also ask if the author has anything to add (if the author wants to highlight something that others need to know about the thesis).
2. Remember to set a positive tone for the seminar.

Then go step by step through the following points:

3. *Research problem statement* – what problem is highlighted in the thesis. Describe the purpose and issue (s) highlighted in the thesis. Discuss questions such as; Are the questions asked in the thesis clear and well understood? Is the theme of the thesis explained? Do these questions naturally follow one another, or do they come off disintegrated? Will the questions be answered at the end of the essay?
4. *Theory* -- Give a brief description of the theoretical framework. Discuss questions such as; What theoretical framework is the author using in the thesis? Does the author have a theory-building ambition (i.e. to create a concept or an entire theory as a result?).
5. *Methodology* -- Describe the method used in the thesis, how material has been collected, what delimitations have been made and how the collected material has been analyzed. Discuss questions such as; Is the chosen methodology well justified? Are there other methods that would be suitable for the research? Are these possibilities of choice between methods discussed by the author? Does the author seem to master the methodology? What methodological literature does the author refer to?
6. *Material* -- Describe the material that the author has used in the research. Discuss questions such as; How has material been gathered and analyzed? Interviews / books / surveys / participatory observation or in another way? Has the material been used effectively? Is there more information to retrieve that the author did not include? Is

the material reliable (can you trust the source)? Does the author seem aware of the limits of the material's informational value?

7. *Analysis* -- Describe how the analysis has been carried out in the thesis. Discuss questions such as; Is the analysis well-structured and easy to follow? Are the conclusions reasonably based on what the material offers? Is there any aspect that has been forgotten?
8. *Results and conclusions* – Describe the results and conclusion. Discuss questions such as; Has the author put the results in context to the research questions? Are the results based on a trial of a theory or of concepts? Finally: has the author given suggestions for further research?
9. *Language and formalities* -- As an opponent, you should not focus your discussion on misspellings and language under each of the points above, but put these things in a special point within the opposition. (First or last). Give one or two examples of which errors you suggest being corrected and then hand in a list (or the whole thesis with your notes inserted) to the author stating what errors you have found. Also comment on the language, ie. does the author master the genre for a scientific text? Feel free to give examples of good, and perhaps less good, formulations.
10. End your opposition by linking to your introductory words under point 1 above and thank the author.

Date of decision	Decision maker	Validation time	Type of document
2021-09-27	HRD collegium	Until further notice	Thesis Seminar Guidelines (opposition)