

# Supervision of thesis writing

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We want to support every young scientist in the team optimally during the preparation of his or her qualification thesis. The result remains the responsibility of the author and should reflect her or his performance. To achieve this, our experienced scientists are prepared to advise the young colleagues on the following key points:

## **(1) Outline of the chapter of results**

Author, please prepare a draft for discussion with your supervisor. The images – most of them will have already been created for presentations – provide a good basis for outlining the story. It is further helpful to state the main point you want to make in each section in a whole sentence.

## **(2) The scientific style**

Author, please write 2-3 pages of your chapter of results. Your supervisor will offer to correct it “word by word” such that the logics and style of a scientific text become clear. You can then prepare the rest of your text, and your supervisor will provide hints for improvement without correcting every detail.

## **(3) Outline of the chapter of discussion**

To establish the line of argument, the discussion has to be outlined. Again, it proved helpful to convey the key messages as whole sentences. Please discuss this outline with your supervisor and your peers thoroughly **before** embarking on the writing. It is a horrendous effort to streamline a disorganized discussion chapter, and your supervisor is not expected to do this.

## **(4) The aims and summary**

Since many readers will focus only on these parts of the thesis, they require special attention. If necessary, your supervisor will help you to optimize your draft in several rounds of revision, suggesting word by word corrections as the last step.

## **Start early!**

Writing, revising and editing scientific texts is hard work and very time consuming. In order to benefit from your supervisor’s advice, you need to give him or her the required time. Please do not count on “last minute actions”, they may be impossible due to the many other obligations of your supervisor.

## **Join our writing club!**

This will help you to write better and faster.