



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Seminar 5 for Doctoral Students

*Topic: Writing your Thesis
Discussion Chapter*

Dr Eleni Koutsogeorgou
13th August 2021

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



www.uwtsd.ac.uk

Seminar Structure

- Structure of the Discussion section in an academic piece of work
- Tips for writing a Discussion section/chapter
- Activity.

Introductory video

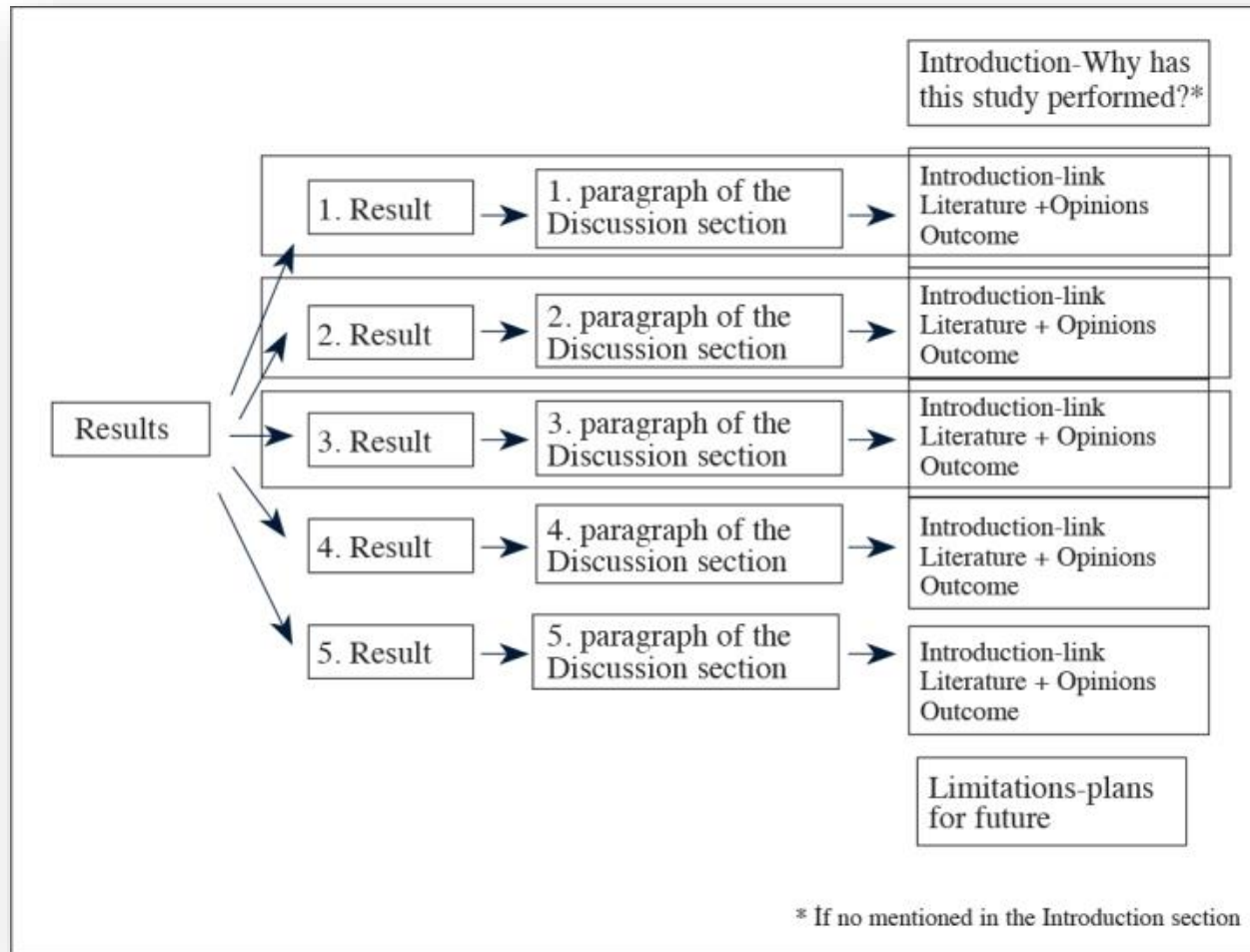
- Let's watch this video summarising the main points necessary to be included in the structure of a Discussion section/chapter.
- **How to Write a Discussion Section:**
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfCGoWtF_tc

Writing your Discussion

- 1) Synthesise your findings.
- 2) Interpret the findings. What patterns do they reveal? Do they shed new light on the subject?
- 3) Critically analyse the findings by linking them to the background research. Are the findings consistent with existing research, theories, established practices? Do they present anything unusual?
- 4) Assess the importance of your study and how it might have filled a gap in your field.
- 5) If using a research question: state explicitly how your research has answered the research question! Reiterate your argument.
- 6) If using an hypothesis: state explicitly if your findings support or not your research hypothesis!
- 7) Identify possible implications of your findings for your area and other areas of study.
- 8) Present a critique of your research in terms of methodology, limitations etc. If the hypothesis was not supported, consider reasons why this was the case (Cottrell, 2014, p192).

As cited in: <https://libguides.westminster.ac.uk/Dissertation/results-and-discussion>

Discussion section – suggested structure



Source: Şanlı, Ö., Erdem, S., & Tefik, T. (2013). How to write a discussion section?. *Turkish journal of urology*, 39(Suppl 1), 20–24. <https://doi.org/10.5152/tud.2013.049>

10 most common dissertation discussion mistakes

- Starting with limitations instead of implications.
- Going overboard on limitations, leading readers to wonder why they should read on.
- Failing to acknowledge limitations or dismissing them out of hand.
- Making strong claims about weak results.
- Failing to differentiate between strong and weak results as you make conclusions about them.
- Lapsing into causal language when your data were correlational.
- Repeating the introduction.
- Restating the results without interpretation or links to other research.
- Presenting new results; such data belong in the results section.
- Offering no concluding statements or ending with the limitations.

Source: Susan Nolen-Hoeksema, PhD, Yale University

As cited in: <https://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2006/01/findings>

Tips - start writing your Discussion

- **How to write your Discussion? - PhD Vlog (video):**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSCAbrAkuRw>

Activity

- In class discussion.
- What are the main challenges that you have encountered or believe that you will encounter when writing your Discussion?

Thank you

Any questions?

Dr Eleni Koutsogeorgou

e.koutsogeorgou@uwtsd.ac.uk