



Writing Up your Sacred Geography Project



MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Sacred Geography

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When fieldwork becomes research

- Investigation without publication and dissemination is not research.
- Investigation which only reports is not research.

To count as research, a project has to seek to make a contribution to knowledge (and perhaps practice and/or policy) in the field. To make this contribution it has to be published – written up.



In order to understand your work any person will need the answer to four key questions .

Four Key Questions to address in your work

What have you done?

Why have you done it?

How have you done it?

What did you find and why does it matter?

Until these questions are answered the reader will struggle to make sense of your research. Thus these need to be dealt with in your introduction.



Three of these questions should be addressed in your introduction

WHAT – WHY - HOW

The Aim of your project

State your research question – take this from your Research Proposal form.

- Make sure you introduce your site – be clear on its location (use a map if needs be) recognise that your reader may not be familiar with your area.

WHY

Academic Rationale

- **Your rationale is to explore the nature of sacredness through a case study of a particular site.**
- Your Literature Review should be the theorist position on sacredness and then any literature about your particular site.

HOW

Methodology

- How you did your research. Number of site visits, use of diaries, personal photos, note books. **Back up your method with citation** – Tilley, and other references on phenomenology. You can also use my paper – ‘Mountains talk of kings and dragons, the Brecon Beacons’ – in the Space Place volume in Legato, to reference taking a Aristotelian approach to your methodology.



EXAMPLE: Andrew Fletcher – His introduction from his project from 2019

Introduction

The aim of this research is to examine the role that a nuclear weapon might have played in creating a sacred space. Whilst the question is potentially a vast undertaking, this research project is focused specifically on the sacred geography of a small area in Hiroshima, southern Japan known as the 'Peace Park'. The question was explored through a limited amount of personal field work in 2018, some feedback from friends and colleagues who had visited the Park in previous decades and primarily a number of key scholars as described below in the literature review section.

The Peace Park is mostly located within a few hundred metres radius of the hypocentre, or exact location, of the world's first use of a nuclear weapon in wartime. This was detonated at an altitude of 600 metres on the 6th August 1945 at 8.15 am.

The structure of your final research paper needs to have these headings

- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Findings/Discussion
- Conclusion

Tip: Open a Word document and insert these headings. Then go to your Research Proposal and cut and paste the different sections under the correct headings. You will be amazed to find that a large part of your paper is now in place with the gaps being Findings and Discussion and your conclusion.

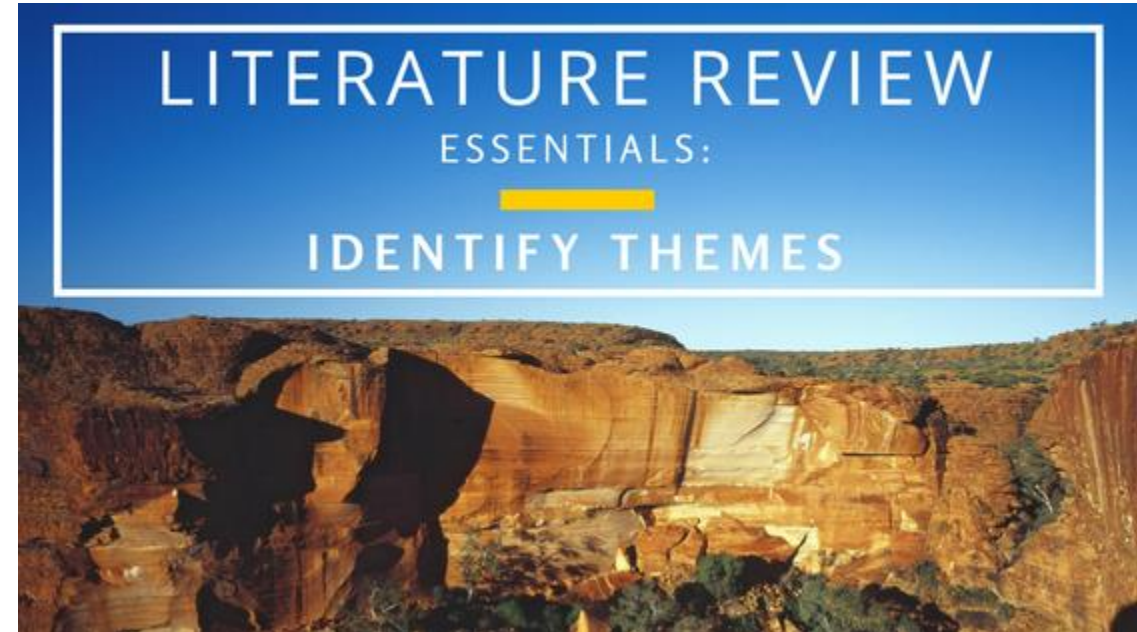
The Literature Review

Your literature review is where you cite and discuss the previous work in your subject field or in a similar field.

It should contain different views of sacredness by established theorist and then any other literature concerning your site. CITATIONS REQUIRED!

Group your literature review into themes which you can then use to help with the structure of your discussion and findings.

VIP: These themes will get edited as you write up your results.





The all important **HOW** you are doing the work

Methodology Section

- Introduce your methods, how have you conducted your research and justify this method with citations? (Take this from Research Proposal)
- Are you using photographs?
- Are you observing other people?
- Are you observing yourself?
- Are you using old diaries or recollections?

- Discuss your equipment, and discuss using phenomenology (with citations). Justify your choice of method!
- Include yourself – as you are one of your own research tools, just like your camera. Are you young, old, male, female, what cultural group do you come from? All of these questions will alter the way you see the world.

Field Work/Discussion

What did you find and why does it matter?

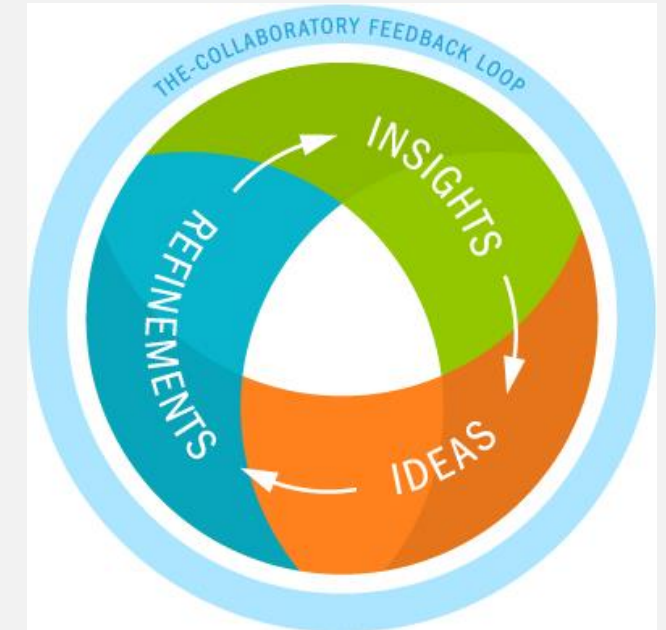
Your discussion of your findings in the field and the relating of your findings back to your academic argument around sacredness.

Your research findings are meaningless unless they are related back to your research question and your academic rational through the lens of your literature review. **If you do not do this it is a serious loss of marks.**

This turns reporting into researching.

Your paper is written in a feedback loop.

The findings can feedback into your literature review, which can feedback into your methodology, which can feedback into your discussion and themes which in turn feeds into your conclusion and eventually feeds back to your introduction.



Field Work/Discussion

DIET - Eggs, meat, bones, vegies + rice cereals.

always want to get an adult gh..
good in small places.
Boredom.

Sandown vet clinic -

"CASE OF THE RACING + RETIRED GREYHOUND"
BLYTHE ET AL 2007 1st ed.
DES RECAN.

CONTACT: GREYHOUND SHELTER NET, SANDOWN

DR. ALAN SMITH SANDOWN VET.

LG 01 3 9547 6666

#1. Single, urban city professional, has had a life change at some point, dialogue ref to an overboard and a change in direction. Did an ag. sci degree and worked for a stint as a vivisectionist (!). Now works in Catholic and Christian pastoral care orgs 4 days a week. Has attended 1 GAO dinner and will go to GAO open day at Eymour on 10/5/18.

Mis and Zac are house dogs with their own cushions in a corner of the lounge room. Mis has been able to get onto the bed - go close on companionable.

Had owned dogs previously (Irish Setters). Not-veget. eats fish but not pork. Not agree racing for sc. - but wants it cleaned up.

CONTACT: MARK RUSSELL, AGE NEWSPAPER, HAS 2 SEVERAL SERVICES AND GOT INDUSTRY

- Clearly write up your results and discuss them.
- Find the themes.
- Link these themes back to your literature review.
- Ensure the themes from your research are represented in your literature review.
- Do your findings confirmed your expectations and those of other researchers in the field or have you found something different/new/contradictory/anomalous?

Conclusion

Your conclusion is the other bookend to your introduction. It needs to take the reader full circle and make them understand why your research is important. **SAVE SOME OF YOUR WORD COUNT FOR A GOOD CONCLUSION!**

Thus a conclusion **must**:

- Return to your research question.
- Briefly summarises your procedure and findings.
- Add your unique finding.

It is also your chance to give your own thoughts. The conclusion is the place where you can add the final comments on the points you have found in your research – **it must be based in the evidence you have provided**. You thus want to summarize your paper but additionally emphasis, in some way, the importance of your findings. **Give your reader a new insight into the subject.**

VIP Questions to ask yourself: Can you make sense of your findings? Can you offer some sort of explanation, however tentative? What are the implications of your findings?



A person should be able to read your introduction and your conclusion and:

- a) Understand the aim of your paper.
- b) Have an overview of your methodology.
- c) Gain an idea of the themes that you developed.
- d) Understand what you found.

If they wish they can read your entire paper and see the detail of the evidence for your findings.

Some causes for loss of marks

- Unclear introduction so the reader does not understand the focus of your work.
- Methodology not justified via citations.
- Literature review simply reporting the theorist opinions rather than developing a discussion and doing incorrect referencing style or not using sufficient referencing or tending to cite theorist as FACTs rather than opinions!

Your Results

- No discussion – simply listing findings – **this can actually lead to failure.**
- Insufficient use of your primary sources – your notes and photos from your site visits.
- Discussion with little or no reference back to your literature review – **this can lead to failure.**
- New material introduced in your discussion, separate to your literature review.
- Conclusion not returning to the original aim and summarising the main themes.
- Conclusion not grounded in the evidence presented in the paper. Generalisations or speculations.

Check List – Essential that you do this....

Tick these boxes to get the best marks for your paper but more importantly to write up a wonderful paper.

- ☐ Have I address the **What**, **Why** and **How** issues in my introduction?
- ☐ Have I justified my methodology by citing scholars who argue that my chosen methodology is valid for my intended research?
- ☐ Have I consider the work of other scholars in the area of my research? In exploring this work have I avoid listing their views and instead shown the different opinions on the key themes that are important for my research findings?
- ☐ Have I written up my findings as a researcher and avoided just reporting facts?
- ☐ Have I used quotes and photos from my note books and observations to help make my arguments which support or disagree with the previous literature I have cited?
- ☐ Have I written a conclusion which summarises my work but also synthesis it together and shows why my work is important?

Submitting 5250 word paper by 4 January 2024 11.59 pm GMT



You need to include the following when you submit your paper:

- Your 5250 word paper with COVER SHEET.
- The **file should be named** in the manner describe directly under the Turnitin Link.
- Appendix – This is not required and is not part of your word count but if you are using one then it should be a part of the SAME file you upload.
 - The appendix contains any additional material to do with your research – **but it is NOT marked.**