

Thesis recipe

1. Key word to describe your main topic
2. Add a verb or predicate
3. Turn the sentence into a question
4. Answer the question
5. Summarize the answer in one sentence
6. Clarify relationship between subject and predicate
7. Remove ambiguity

Thesis recipe

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Evaluate your thesis

- Unified – one topic
- Focused – single argument; complete answer
- Clear – avoid abstract, ambiguous words
- Original
 - but also*
- Relevant to your field

What is an abstract?

For the reader

- What is the paper about?
- Is it relevant to my work?

Don't be too coy.



Sally Rand (April 3, 1904~ August 31,1979), famous for her ostrich feather fan dance

For the writer

- Write the abstract first.
 - Guide your writing
- Re-write the abstract later.
 - Re-write for the reader
 - Ideas change while writing

The abstract is not...

- an introduction
- the thesis statement
- a conclusion

The abstract includes

- Background
- Research question or problem
- Methods or approach
- Results*
- Conclusion*

The recipe

1. Research question / task
2. Motivation (why study)
3. Methods / procedures
4. Results of those methods
5. Conclusion from those results
6. Summarize those 5

The review

1. R

2. I

Past research has found...

But it is not yet known...

The purpose of this research is...

We investigated (methods, methods)

3. (Results, results)

Based on these results, we conclude...

The recipe

1. Research question / task (1-2 sentences)
 2. Motivation (why study) (1-2 sentences)
 3. Methods / procedures (2-3 sentences)
 4. Results of those methods (2-3 sentences)
 5. Conclusion from those results (~1 sentence)
 6. Summarize & combine (6-12 sentences)
- α Implications?

The recipe

1. What is the central question of your research?
 - How are symbols borrowed from “the West” understood when they are used in Japanese weddings?

The recipe

2. Why research this?

- Japan uses a lot of European, Christian symbols, but seems to understand them differently from Christians.
- Borrowed rituals have to be incorporated into existing systems.

The recipe

3. What techniques, methods, or theories did you use?
 - Analyze the system of oppositions in Japanese rituals
 - Compare Japanese and western understandings of cake
 - Symbolic analysis

The recipe

4. What are the results of the techniques or methods in step 3?
 - Presentation of the cake symbolizes fertility at both western and Japanese weddings.
 - Cakes fit into Japan's traditional system for making sense of rituals.
 - The *nyūtō* ritual is a symbol of fertility specific to Japan.

The recipe

5. Based on those results, what can you conclude?
 - The Western wedding cake as a symbol of fertility fits in the Japanese system of symbols.
 - New ritual elements are adopted when they fit into existing symbolic systems.

The recipe

6. Put the answers to those questions together.
 - Motivation
 - Main task
 - Procedures
 - Results
 - Conclusions
 - Implications (optional)

Model

Past research has found ○○.

But □□ is not yet well understood.

The purpose of this research is △△

First we did ○○. Then



Thesis
statement

The results show 🌸🌸🌸.

Based on these results, we conclude 😊😊.

The implication of this conclusion is... (optional)

Model

Past research suggests that borrowed rituals may be incorporated into existing ritual systems. But it is not yet well understood how western-style wedding cakes fit the Japanese system. The purpose of this research is to investigate how symbols borrowed from the West are used in Japanese weddings. Working in the system of symbolic analysis, this paper first examines the traditional system of oppositions in Japanese rituals. Then it compares the use and meaning of cake in Western and Japanese weddings. The results show that both Japanese and Western weddings use cake as a symbol of fertility. But the Japanese *nyūtō* cake-cutting ritual fits this symbol into a traditional Japanese ceremonial system. Based on these results we conclude that Western-style wedding cakes are integrated into Japanese wedding ritual as a symbol of fertility.

The recipe

1. Research question / main task
2. Motivation (why study)
3. Methods / procedures
4. Results of those methods
5. Conclusion (thesis statement)
6. Summarize & combine
α Implications?

For next time:

- Find two abstracts that work well
 - We'll discuss how they work
- Read 2 articles from course web site
- If you want feedback, send thesis statement