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Juristische Fakultät
Institut für Kriminologie

Academic Writing

„From the blank sheet to the publication“

Rüdiger Wulf

Intensive Course „Balkan Criminology“
23.-27. oct. 2017, International University Center Dubrovnik

The red thread for the criminological publication

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The empty sheet

The publication

Presentation

- Rüdiger Wulf, born 1951 in Westfalia/Germany
- Study of Law and Criminology
  at Tuebingen University (1969-1975)
- Dr. jur., Tuebingen University (1979)
- Judge, Prosecutor in Stuttgart (1979-1982)
- Ministry of Justice in Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart,
  Prison Department (since 1982)
- Honorable professor, Tuebingen University (since 2008)
  - Criminology,
  - Youth Penal Law,
  - Corrections,
  - Juristic rhethoric.

„Motto“

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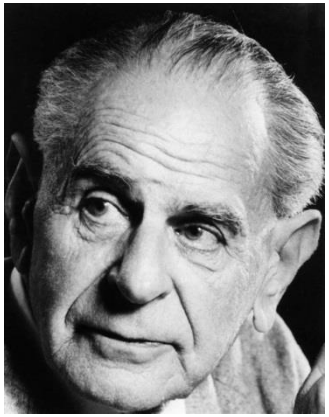
„The whole life is problem solving“

- Karl Popper -

Philosopher, Science theory



Structure

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Stations of academic writing:

First part:

- Fundamantals of of academic writing
- From the blank sheet to the idea: The research question
- From the idea to the design: Vertices of research

Second part:

- From the design to exposure: Dealing with hypothesis
- From the expose to the publication: Structure and workout
- the own vote: Identify strenghts/weaknesses of the publication

Cooperation between student and teacher

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- The teacher helps the students helping themenselves.“.
- The teacher supports the students emotionally.

- The student is responsible for his/her publication
- The student accepts the criticism.

- The volume of assistance is determindes by the type of work, the personality of the student and the time budget of the teacher.

Positive thinking in academic work

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- " I look forward to the work ".
- "It's my work ."
- "I do my best (to the end) .“
- "I am curious and want to see something new.“
- "The teacher helps me ".
- "I trust him!"
- "I take the help and criticism."
- "The dissertation will succeed."
- "I'll get a good score ."
- "I'll pass the examination. "

„Deadly sins“ in academic writing

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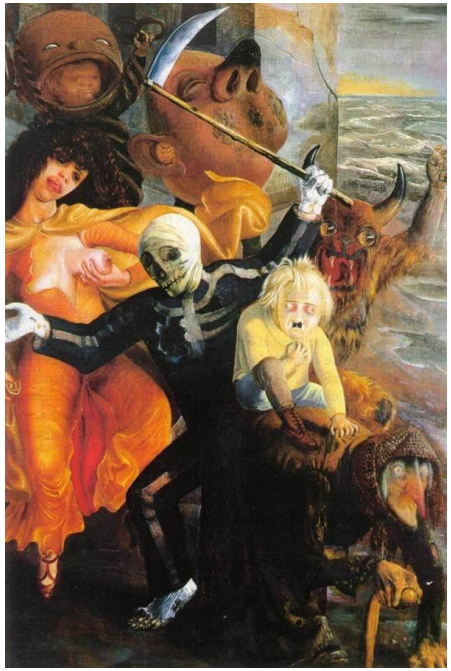
1. Copying (plagiarism trial), especially from the Internet
2. Infringe copyrights
3. Someone else writes the dissertation
4. Accept prohibited advice
5. Fake empirical findings
6. Steal another dissertation or buy it (occurs!)
7. Restrain opponent results
8. Quote secondary and omit the citation;
9. Bribe the supervisor or give him gifts



Research Integrity

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Principles for Good Practice Rules:

- Honesty in communications;
- Reliability in performing research;
- Objectivity;
- Impartiality and independence;
- Openness and accessibility;
- Duty of care,
- **Fairness in providing references** and giving credit;
- Responsibility for the scientists/researchers of the future.

EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION
SETTING SCIENCE AGENDAS FOR EUROPE

The European Ccode of Conduct for Reasearch Integrity:
www.esf.org/fileadmin/Public_documents/Publications/Code_Conduct_ResearchIntegrity.pdf

Plagiarism

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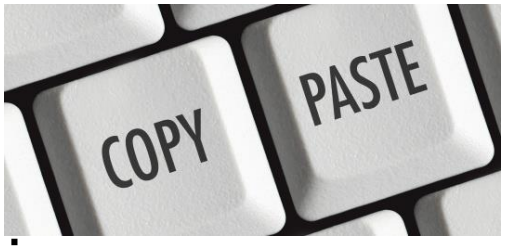
Definition:
The original foreign intellectual property or a foreign work as his own, or part of a specific plant.



Forms:

- Total plagiarism: taking over an entire text ;
- Part plagiarism: acquisition of parts of text ;
- Verbal plagiarism: acquisition of formulations ;
- Idea plagiarism: acquisition of thoughts ;
- Auto plagiarism: multiple utilization of own work .

Way out:
The citation/quote.

Steps of scientific thinking I

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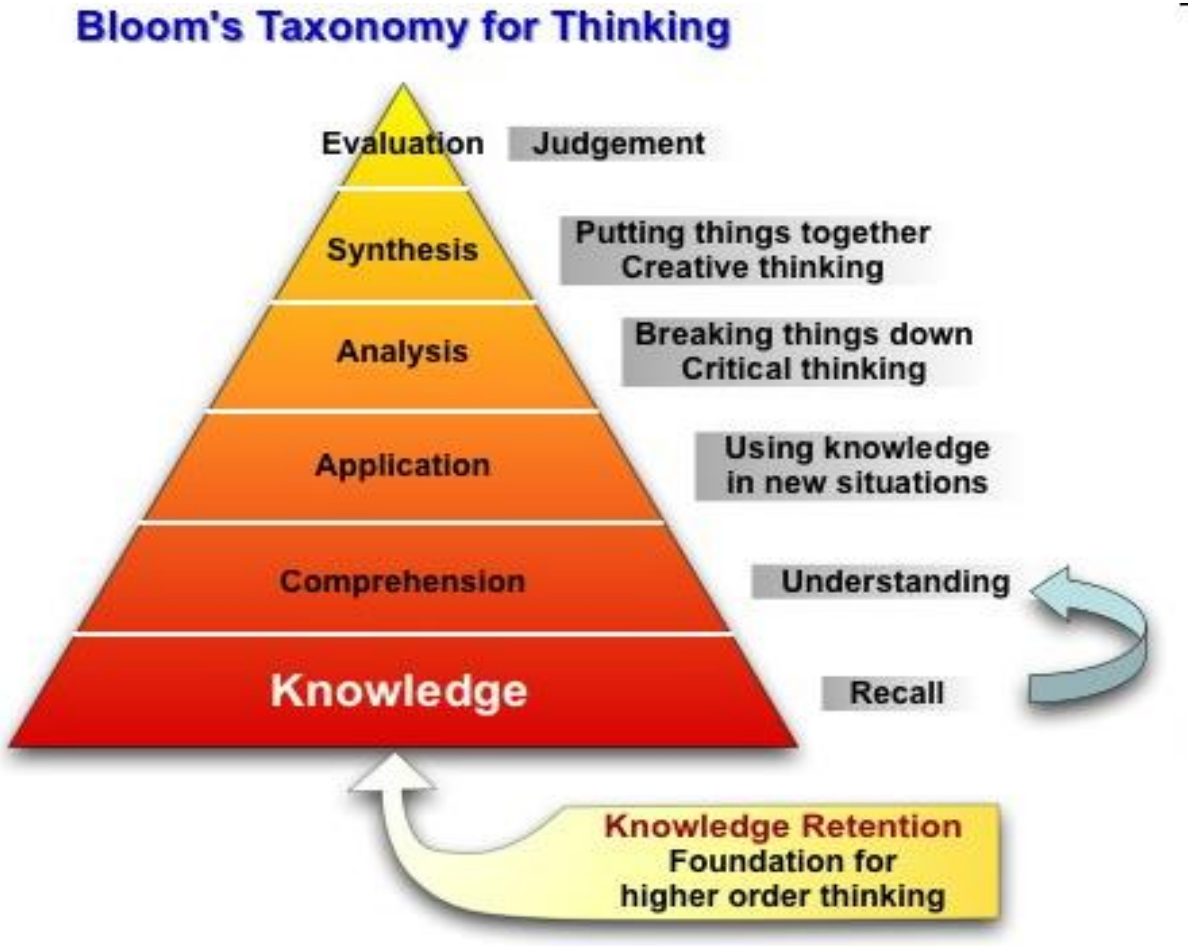

Bloom, Benjamin S.; David R. Krathwohl:

Taxonomy of educational objectives: The classification of educational goals; 1956.

Steps of scientific thinking II

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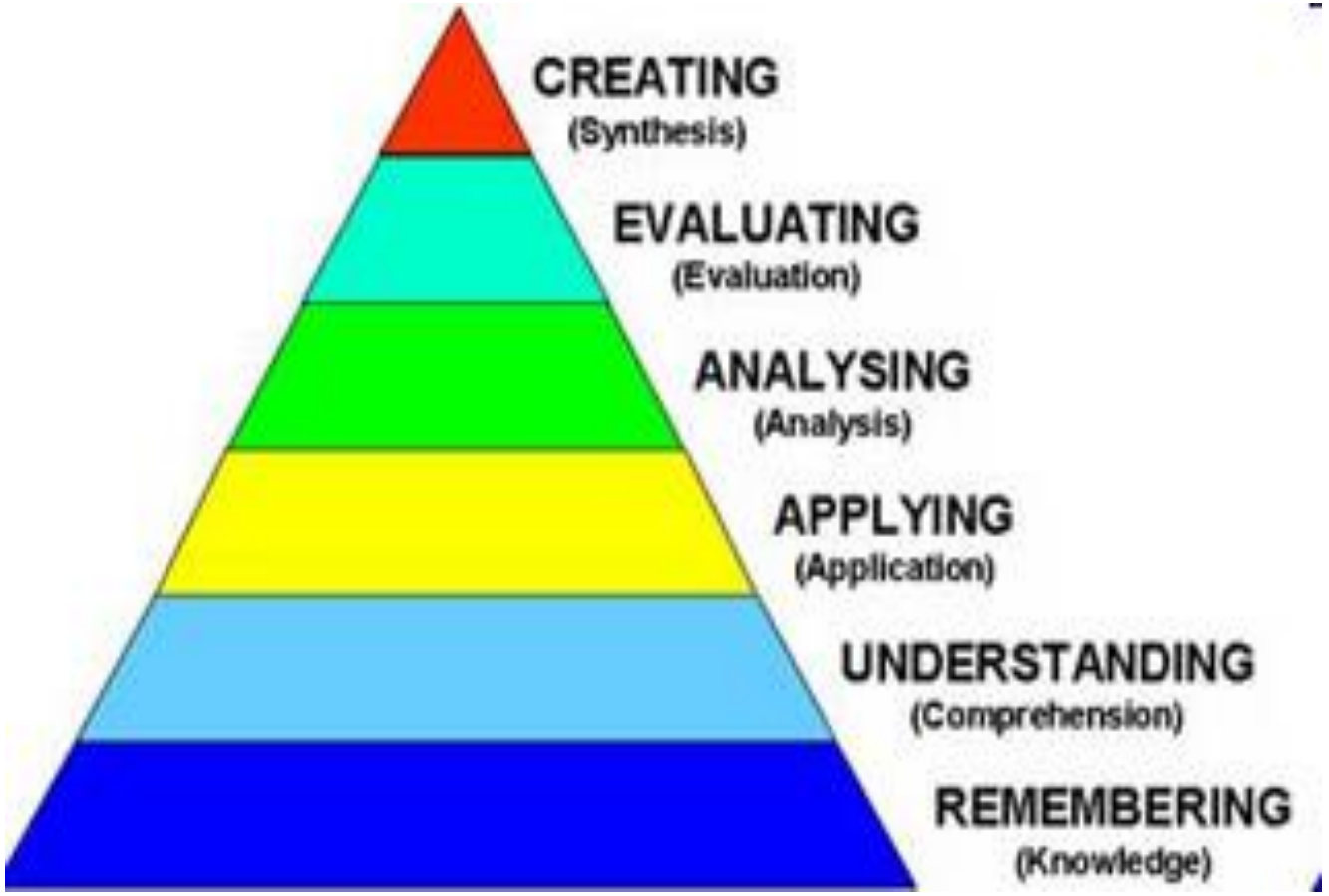

Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (Eds.):
A taxonomy for learning, teaching and assessing:
A revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of educational objectives; 2001.

Steps of scientific thinking III

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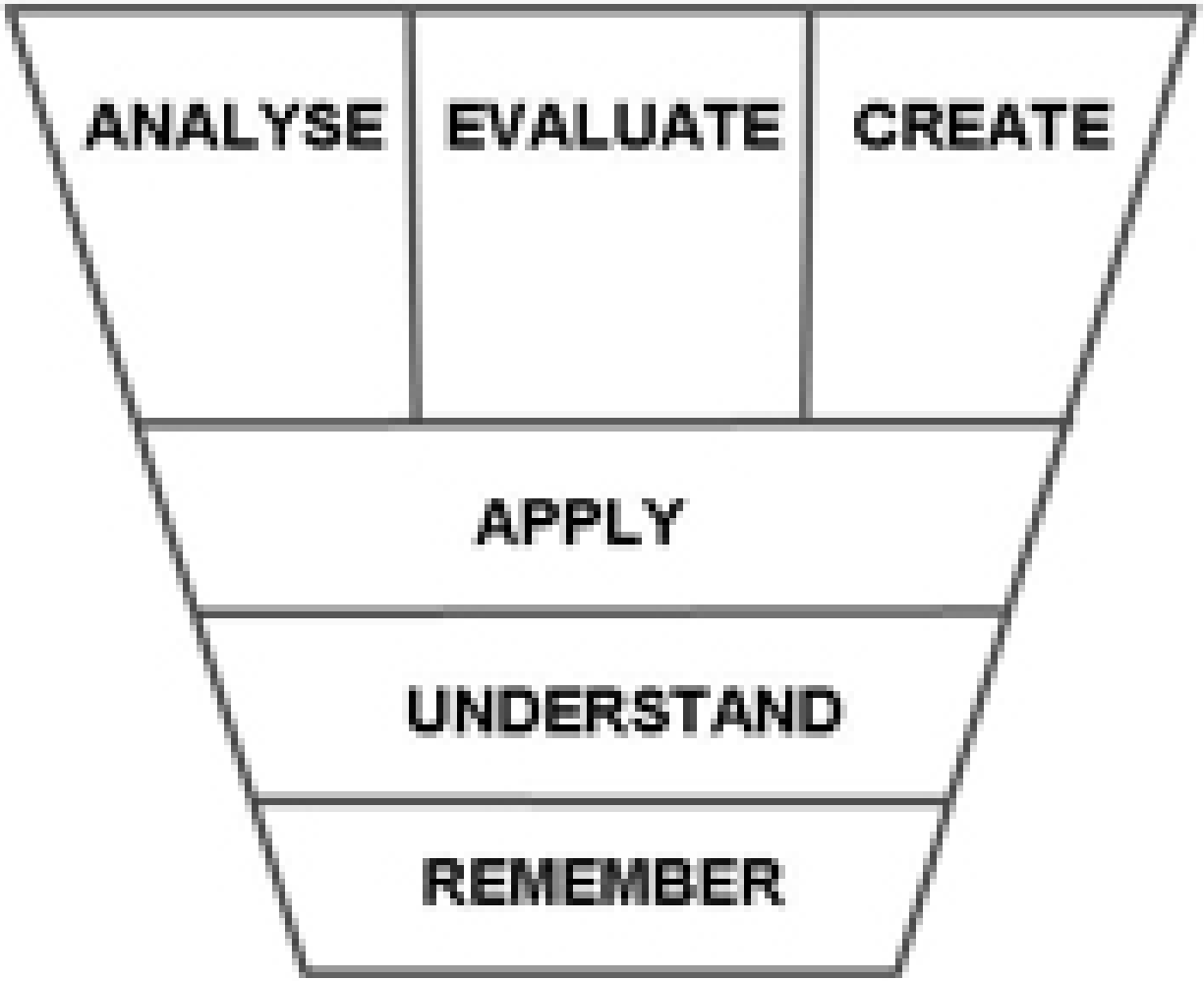

Definition: Scientific working

Scientific work is reflected in a systematic and methodically controlled compound independent and creative thinking with existing scientific findings.

The procedure is carefully, clarifying terms, professionally and based on the discipline.“

BOHL, T. (2008): Wissenschaftliches Arbeiten im Studium der Pädagogik. 3. ed. Weinheim und Basel: Beltz p. 13.

From blank sheet to the idea

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Scientific question

Blank sheet

Idea

Choice of subject I

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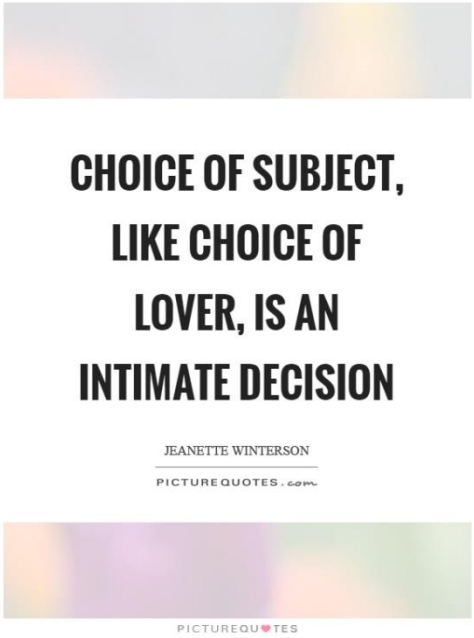
Incorrect entry :

- "Please, sir, give me a topic!"
- "I want to write about ... ! “
- "I'm interested in …"
- "Lately is ... to date! "
- "There is so much literature on ..."
- "What's going easiest/fastest ? "



Proper entry :

" I always think about the following question : ... ?“

Choice of subject II

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- Bring personal interest
- Be careful with "self-awareness“
- Contribute:
  - personal resources
  - knowledge
  - techniques
  - methods
  - existing material
  - Access to volunteers
- Search something new
- Clarify the issue;
- Seek (a little) benefit for the discipline

Finding of subject

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- Time for finding a topic worth later
- If possible find clear and narrowly defined topics
- Analyze a given thematic before you write
- Differentiate: Theme and research guiding question
- Research question and subject may change in the processing
- Develop your own issue

Development of subject

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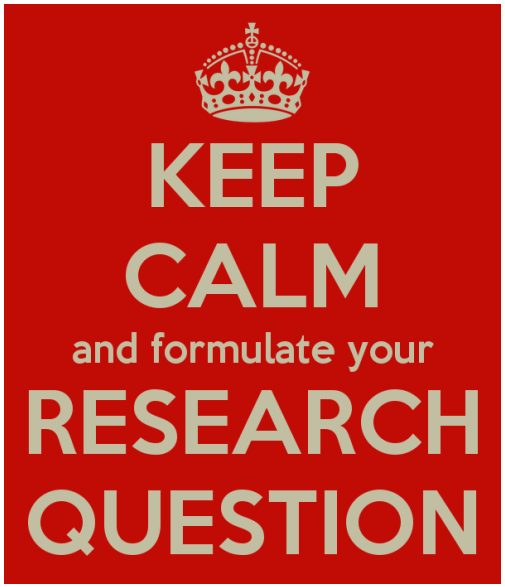
- Ask a comprehensive research guiding question!

- **One** question
- A **comprehensive** research question
- A **question (?) (question mark)**



The research guiding question is
the idea of your scientific work.

From the idea to the design: Key aspects of scientific work

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Idea

Design

Development of subject II

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Mark the key aspects of your work:

1. Work out the **subject** of research work!
   What is to be observed/collected? Clarify terms!

2. Demonstrate **research purpose**:
   Why should be observed/collected?

3. Determine **research methods**:
   What should be observed/collected??

- Karl Popper -

Methods of academic research

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- Analysis of literature or documents
- Analysis of jurisdiction
- Historic method
- Comparative method
- Criminological theory
- Empiric method
- Case study

Analysis of terms: Criteria

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- Definition und carcteristics
- Antonym and related terms,
- Upper an lower terms
- Historic classification
- Used in other areas
- practical examples;
- empirical studies with the term
- Theories with the term;
- Notable authors, who have written about the term or are associated with the term

Analysis of terms: An example

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„Crime prevention“ e.g.:

- Prevention of crimes
- Repression, prevention, prophylaxis, promotion
- Primäry, sekundary und tertiary crime prevention
- Universal, selective und indicated crime prevention
- Prevention als upper term,
- Short history in science, long practice
- Medicine, technique, paedagogic, psychology;
- Imobilizers, early support for vulnerable persons
- Sherman-Report. „Düsseldorfer Gutachten“
- Labeling approach, Chicago school et al.
- Farrington, Lösel, Weisburd et al.

From the Design to the expos
Dealing with hypotheses

Design

Exposure

The hypotheses

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Definition:
Hypotheses are statements and affirmations
that can be confirmed or refuted by scientific studies
(e.g. empiricism, experiment).
Thus, hypotheses have an preliminary character.
Moreover hypotheses are preliminary drafts of theories.

Key words

- Assertion
- Scientific
- Possibility for falsification

Hypothesis testing

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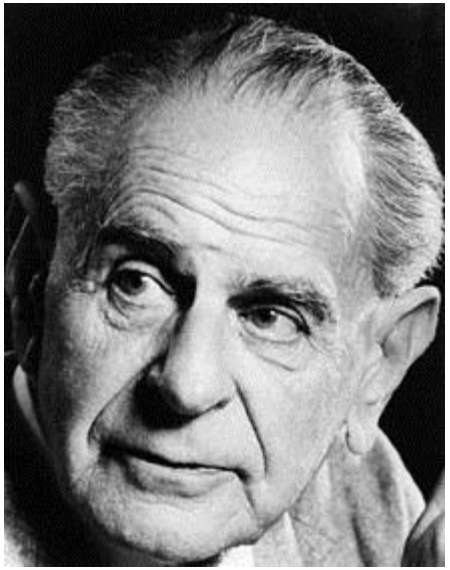
Basic principle:
Hypotheses can only ever be falsified.
Never confirmed oder proved (K. Popper).



Grounds:
There are always possibilities,
in which the hypthesis is not true.

Cobclusions:

- Formulate the hypthesis always that one can falsify it.
- Use null hypotheses.
- Not to prove positive.

Use of hypotheses

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- Natural sciences
- Medicine (drug discovery)
- Empirical social research
- Cultural studies
- Linguistics

But also:

- Jurisprudence
- Criminology and related sciences
- Police science

Example I

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Theme: Criminal careers of „lifers“
(Wulf, legal dissertation 1979)

Research guiding question: Are there any differences in the criminal carreers between „lifers“ and other criminals?

Subject of the research:
All „lifers“ in the state of Baden-Württemberg (1973, n = 141)

Purpose of the research:
Typology, prognoses, correction et al.

Method of research: file analysis, exploration.

Example II

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Key terms:

- „Lifers“: define and describe the selection process;
- „Criminal career“: Use career research as the theortical concept (objektive/subjective)

(Null)Hypothesis:

The criminal careers of lifers do not differ in comparison with other careers of criminals.

Result:

- The null hypothesis could not be falsified.
- No significant differences in the total group.
- But: Differerences in subgroups.

Design/Structure of a scientific research*

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1. Develop the research leading question
2. Define key terms
3. Formulate topic (not at the beginning)
4. Form the central hypothesis of the research (falsifiable)
5. Form subhypotheses
6. Set investigation method(s)
7. Perform examination
8. Draw conclusions
9. Write the scientific paper

* Walter/Brand/Wolke 2009

From design to a vote

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design

vote

Own vote

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- It is advisable to write a vote on their own work before submission of the paper according to the criteria of the examiner.
- This makes the work “tasty“ to the examiner.
- In his review that matters.
- But do not:" Talking after mouth“

  (Often you do not know what he thinks or wants to hear).

Vote in criminological publications

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Structure of the vote:

- Formalia (see below)
- Common quality features (see below)
- Individual comments
- Justification of the note
- Note corresponding grading scale

Formalia in the vote

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- Spelling, punctuation (!)
- Structure of sentence
- (Scientific) style
- Timely delivery
- Permissible scope
- No suspicion of plagiarism
- Outline, bibliography, footnotes
- Abbreviations, annex

Common quality features

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- Knowledge; description of the state of research
- Understanding of the subject
- Ability to use: case solution
- Analytical procedure; definitions
- Own opinion, criticism and doubt
- Creativity
- At least initially: Clean methodology

(see above Bloom/Anderson/Krathwohl)

Vom exposure to the publication: Struture and work out

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Exposure

Publication

Publication Manual: APA Style

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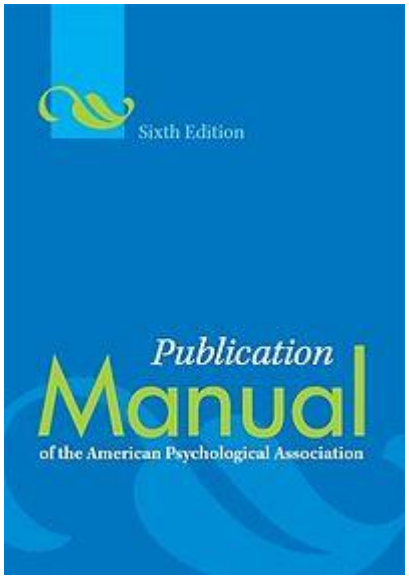
American Psychological Association (2010): Publication manual, 6th ed.

Contents:

- Writing for Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Manuscript Structure and Content
- Writing Clearly and Concisely
- The Mechanics of Style
- Displaying Results
- Crediting Sources
- Referance Examples
- The Publication Process



Reference management software

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citavi

Wissen organisieren.

Structure/Contents

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- Do not dissect and do not too little broken
- Use commen outline formats
  - 1., 1.1., 1.1.1., 1.1.1.1, 1.1.1.1.1.1, 1.1.1.1.1.1.1 or
  - A. I. 1. a) aa) (1)
- Each letter and each number corresponds to a opposite position („Who says A, must say B“)
- List bullets and numbering pages
- Headlines thoughout:
  - Short terms (max. 12, one line)
  - Two word phrases (no complete sentences)

Introduction

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- „The introduction must succeed““
- Arouse interest in the topic: Examples.
- Point on the importance of the issue :
  Implications for practice, politics, science.
- Confinement of the theme (very important)
- No announcements (waste of time)
- The course of the work results from the structure.

Bulk: „TED“

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Standard values (deviations are possible):

- Theoretical part: about 1/3 of the total.
- Empirical part: about 1/3 of the total.
- Discussion: about 1/3 of the total.

A question to/from any part is good.

Theoretical part

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Presentation of the research object, e.g .:

- In chronological order (if nothing else is incident)
- After sciences
- After scientists
- After content criteria (best)

Remember quotes.

Discussion

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Approach:

In discussing the results of the own research are contrasted with the state of research (theoretical part) and compared with him.

Key questions:

- To what extent the own results differ from other findings?
- To what extent are the own results consistent with the state of research?
- Which questions remain unanswered?
- Which questions are new?

Conclusion

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- „The conclusion must succeed!“
- Demonstrate the significance of your results for the respective discipline.
- Ask further questions arising from the outcome of your research.
- No discontinuations (Waste of time)
- No thanks.

12 golden rules/messages for academic writing

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1. Work on the basis of research integrity!
2. Think positively and trust your teacher!
3. Identify and solve scientific problems (Popper)!
4. Clarify the key words of your subject!
5. Write shortly and precisely!
6. Develop your publication in steps: From the research question/hyptheses over research design, exposure and your own vote to the final publication!

12 golden rules/messages for academic writing

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7. Use good and different scientific methods,
8. Go into the depth of your topic („less is more“)!
9. Combine the state of research with own ideas!
10. Be critical but respectful with methods and results of other researchers!
11. Be doubtful with your own methods and own results („No result is a result“!
12. Don´t fear mistakes in own ideas!

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