

Introduction to Sentiment Analysis

-- *Session 5: How to Write a Term Paper*--

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Acknowledgements:

The slides are basically a summary of the document *Wie schreibt man eine Hausarbeit?* by **Prof. Manfred Pinkal** and **Andrea Horbach** (*there is a link on the course webpage*).

Purpose of a Term Paper

- ▶ To show that you have understood the topic (paper) given to you.
- ▶ To show that you know how to do scientific writing.

Who is the Addressee of Your Term Paper?

- ▶ Actually it is your instructor.
- ▶ BUT: better write this as if you addressed your fellow students who have not attended the (pro)seminar.
- ▶ Why?
 - ▶ Your instructor already knows the work you are going to write about.

Outline of Your Term Paper

- ▶ General outline:
 - ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ Main part
 - ▶ Conclusion

Outline of Your Term Paper

► Introduction:

- What is the topic?
- What is the concrete research task?
- What is the motivation for doing this kind of research?
- Give a brief outline how the rest of the paper is structured.

Outline of Your Term Paper

- ▶ Main part:
 - ▶ The actual content
 - ▶ The most important thing: train of thought must be clearly visible.
 - ▶ Hint: the structure of the paper(s) you summarize need not be best for your term paper (→ *different audience*).
 - ▶ Have subsections!

Outline of Your Term Paper

- ▶ Conclusion:
 - ▶ Summarize the task.
 - ▶ Summarize the proposed approach.
 - ▶ Where did the proposed approach succeed?
 - ▶ What are the limitations of the approach?
 - ▶ What could be proposed as future work?

Literary Research

- ▶ In a proseminar, it suffices to use the literature given to you.
- ▶ However, if you include further literature then this will certainly be regarded as a plus of your course work.
- ▶ The choice of further literature needs to be approved of by your instructor **in advance**.

Literary Research

- ▶ Not every pdf you find on the web is a research publication.
- ▶ Check whether the work has been really published (e.g. journal, conference, workshop).
- ▶ Focus on published work that has also undergone a *peer-reviewed* process.
- ▶ Check Google-Scholar for citation statistics: a frequently cited work is also a good hint that this a significant piece of research.

Structure of the Term Paper

- ▶ Your paper should have the following structure:
 - ▶ Cover
 - ▶ Table of contents
 - ▶ List of figures (*if applicable*)
 - ▶ *the actual content*
 - ▶ Bibliography
 - ▶ Appendix (*optional*)

Structure of the Term Paper

- ▶ Best way to enforce that structure:
 - ▶ Use LaTeX
 - ▶ A Detailed introduction is given in the course:
Einführung in wissenschaftliches Schreiben

Importance of Examples/Illustrations

- ▶ Examples and illustrations are important in order to convey your content.
- ▶ They can be much more effective than a mere textual description!
- ▶ Do not restrict yourself to those examples/illustrations from the paper(s) you present.
- ▶ Example sentences should be indexed.

Tables, Formulas and Figures

- ▶ Purpose is to visualize important content.
- ▶ You need to address every table/formula/figure in your text.
- ▶ Have a caption for every table/formula/figure.
- ▶ Index them; address the tables/formulas/figures in the text by their index!
- ▶ **Hint:** LaTeX is very helpful in enforcing this!

Writing Style

- ▶ Write the paper **in your own words!**
- ▶ Use the 1st person (singular or plural) in order to present your own thoughts.
- ▶ Use the 3rd person for reporting other people's thoughts.
- ▶ Avoid excessive unpersonal writing style (e.g. all sentences in passive voice).

Writing Style

- ▶ Use a formal writing style.
- ▶ Copying/extending your presentation slides is certainly inadequate!
- ▶ Use linguistic terminology.
- ▶ Introduce new terminology the first time you mention it.
- ▶ See that you use (and spell) your terminology consistently.

Citations

- ▶ Everything what is not your own idea, thought, statement etc. needs to be marked as such.
- ▶ In case there is some concrete literature from where you have got that content, then make an entry in your bibliography.
- ▶ Otherwise, state the source
 - ▶ in brackets *or*
 - ▶ add its URL as a footnote

Citations

- ▶ Please use APA citation format.
- ▶ APA: American Psychological Association
- ▶ Basic idea: author's last name and the year of publication for the source should appear in the text.
- ▶ Again, there exist predefined commands in LaTeX for this!
- ▶ One important distinction:
 - ▶ *Method X was found to outperform state-of-the-art baselines (Meier et al., 2008).*
 - ▶ **Meier et al. (2008)** examined phenomenon Y in a large- scale analysis.
 - ▶ Name of author is **not** enclosed within brackets if the citation is a proper constituent of the sentence.

Bibliography

- ▶ Have a consistent format for entries in your bibliography.
- ▶ Easiest way to ensure this: LaTeX (more specifically bibTeX).
- ▶ Bibliography must only contain publications that are explicitly cited in your term paper!

In what order should the paper be written?

- ▶ Often writing in linear order (i.e. starting from the introduction and finish with the conclusion) is a **bad** idea!
- ▶ Better start from the middle (i.e. main part).
- ▶ Start with tables/figures reporting results of experiments.
- ▶ Then think about what you have to explain to your audience (concepts, algorithms etc.) so that they understand these results/experiments.
- ▶ Start with bullet points rather than fully fledged sentences!

Proofreading

- ▶ Use spell-checking.
- ▶ Use grammar-checking.
- ▶ Avoid run-on sentences.
- ▶ Avoid orphan lines.
- ▶ Check that the cross-references are correctly set.
- ▶ Check that your paper has a consistent format.

Proofreading

- ▶ Ideally, have someone else proofread your paper.
- ▶ It is often more effective to proofread your own paper after a few days rather than proofreading it twice or three times one after the other.
- ▶ The paper should be **easy to read!**
- ▶ If the reader has to do much guesswork, you did not do a good job.

Some Formal Issues

- ▶ Length: 10-15 pages
- ▶ In German or English
- ▶ Deadline for term paper: **TBA**
- ▶ The only file format that is accepted is **pdf**.