

Writing Discussion Sections

GROW Dissertation Bootcamp – April 21, 2018

Traditional 5-Chapter Dissertation Format

① Introduction

② Literature Review

③ Methodology

④ Findings & Analysis

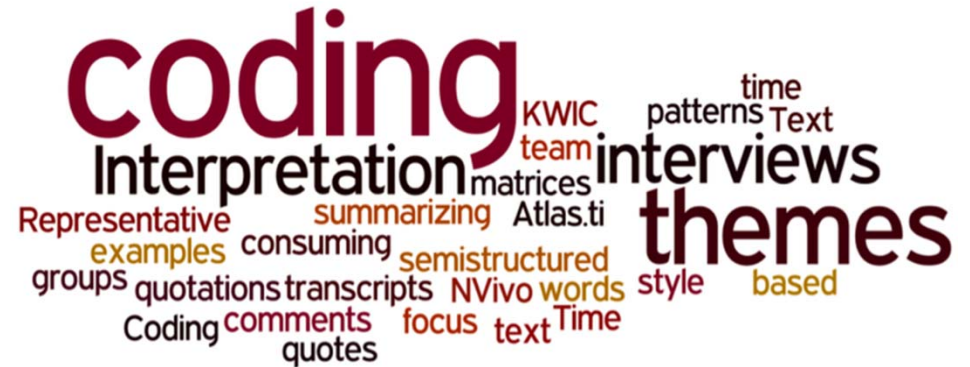
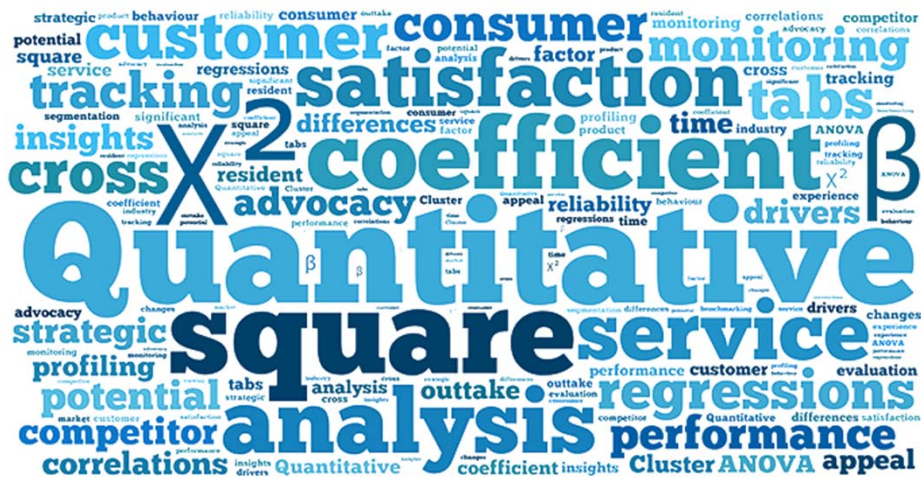
⑤ Discussion & Conclusions



Current State of Affairs

Light at the
End of the
Tunnel





Discussion & Conclusions

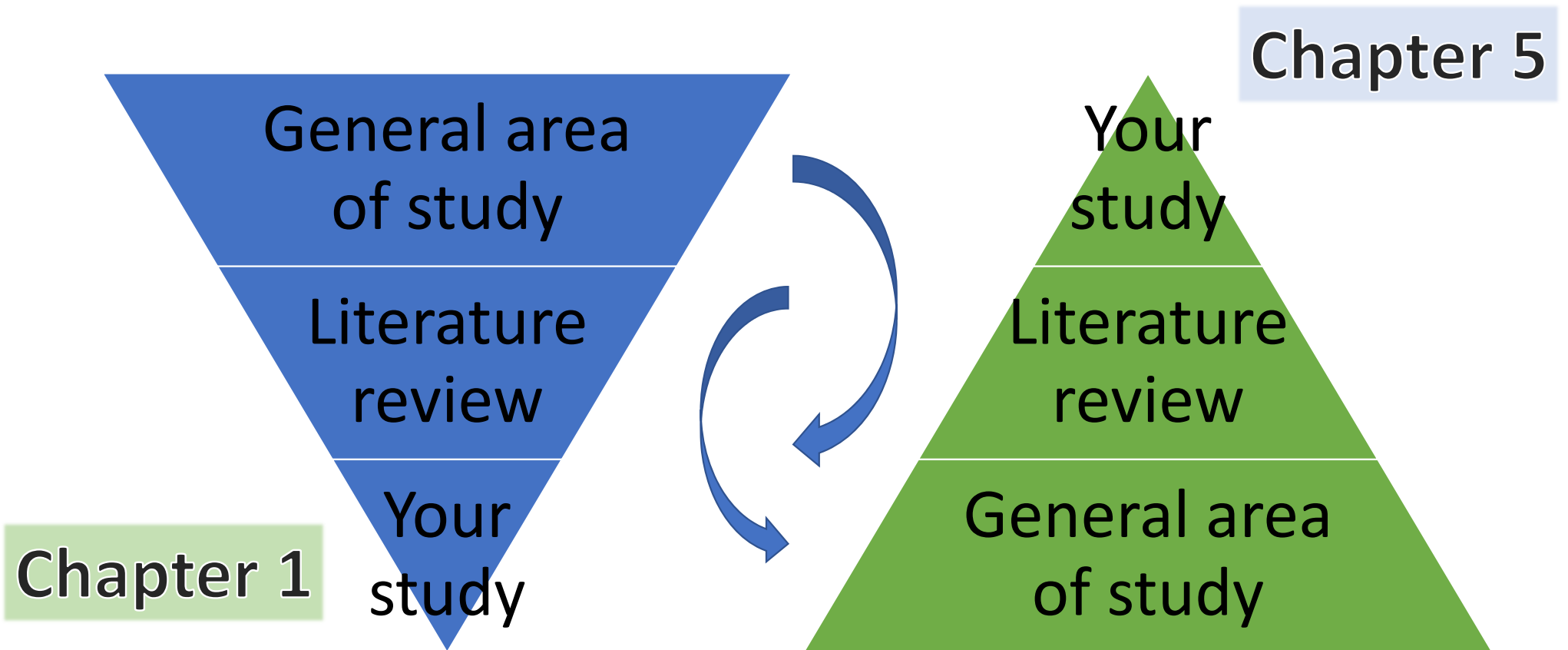
Three Main Goals

Questions introduced in chapter

- Demonstrate how answers are supported by the data collected

- Explain how answers fit relative to existing literature around the subject

The Research Funnel




What to Include

- Major findings of the study
- Meaning of the findings and their importance to the field/discipline
- Relate findings to previous research
- Consideration of alternative explanation of findings
- Relevance/implications of findings
- Limitations (and delimitations)
- Suggestions for future research endeavors
- Conclusion – “what is your take away message?”

Adding the
missing piece
to the puzzle

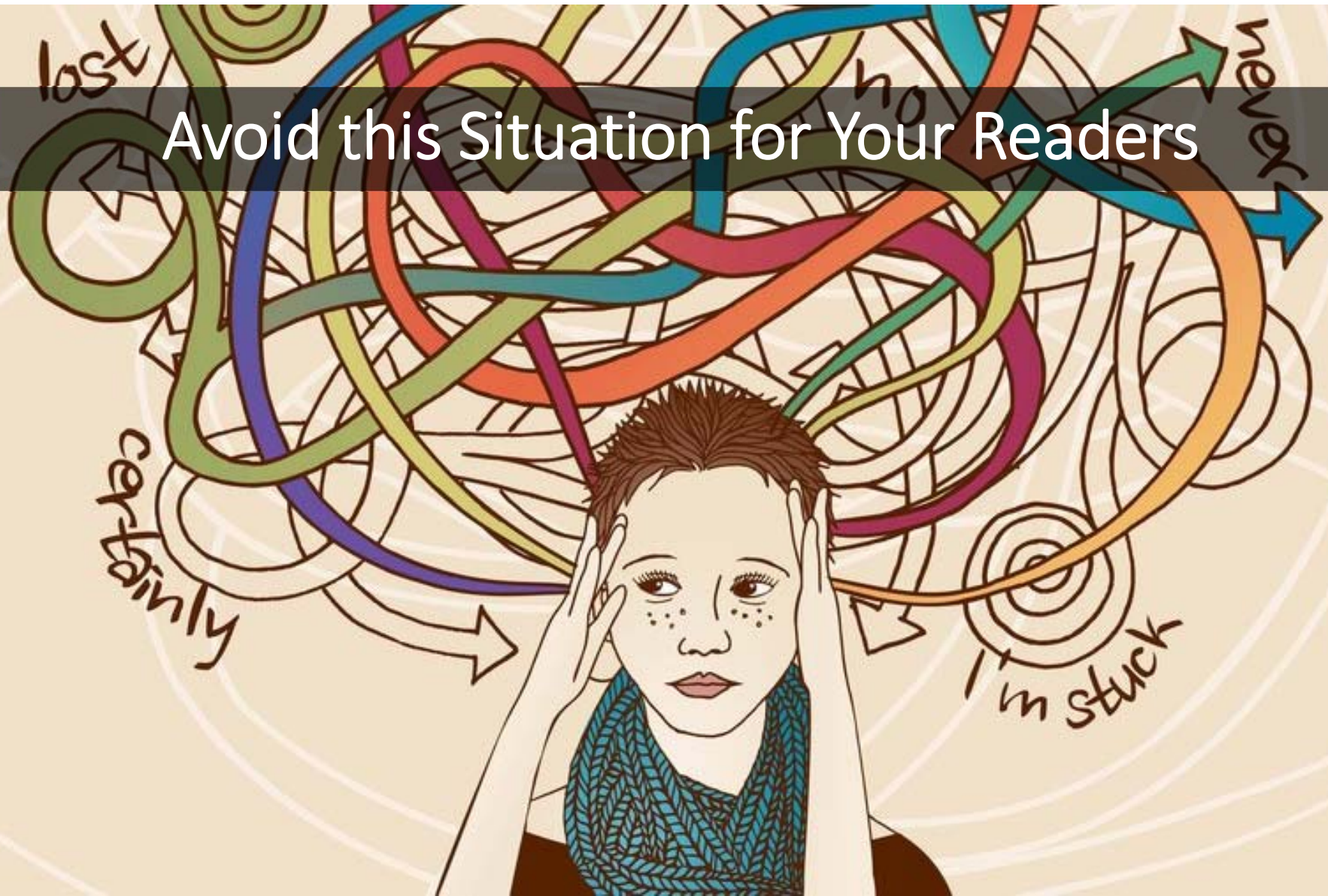
RESEARCH

A 3D puzzle piece with the word "RESEARCH" on it, set against a background of a puzzle grid. The puzzle piece is blue and has a white border. The word "RESEARCH" is written in white capital letters on the top surface of the piece. The background is a dark blue grid of puzzle pieces, with a bright blue light source illuminating the scene from the right.

What to Avoid

- Reporting statistics
- Overinterpretation of results
- Unwarranted speculation
- Inflating the importance of results
- Introducing new research studies
- Tangential issues
- Criticism of previous research/researchers
- Conclusions not supported by the data

Avoid this Situation for Your Readers



Summary Review

- **DO:** Provide context and significance
- **DON'T:** Simply rehash your results

- **DO:** Emphasize the positive
- **DON'T:** Exaggerate

- **DO:** Look toward the future
- **DON'T:** End with it

