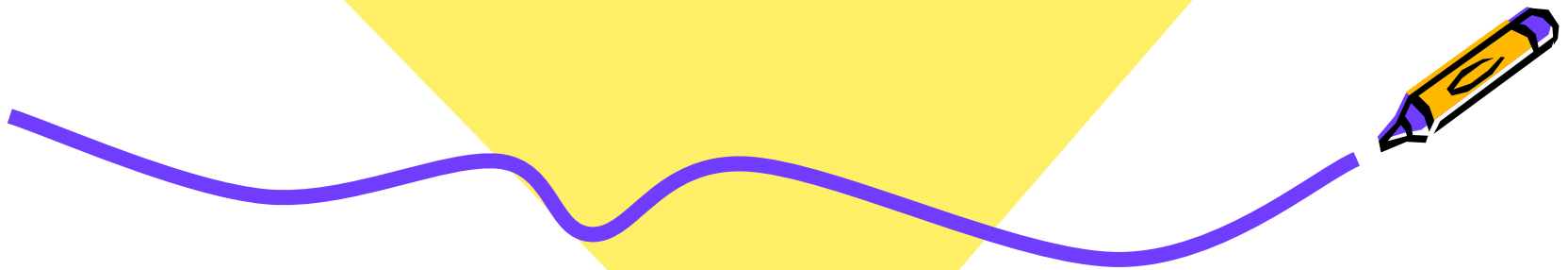




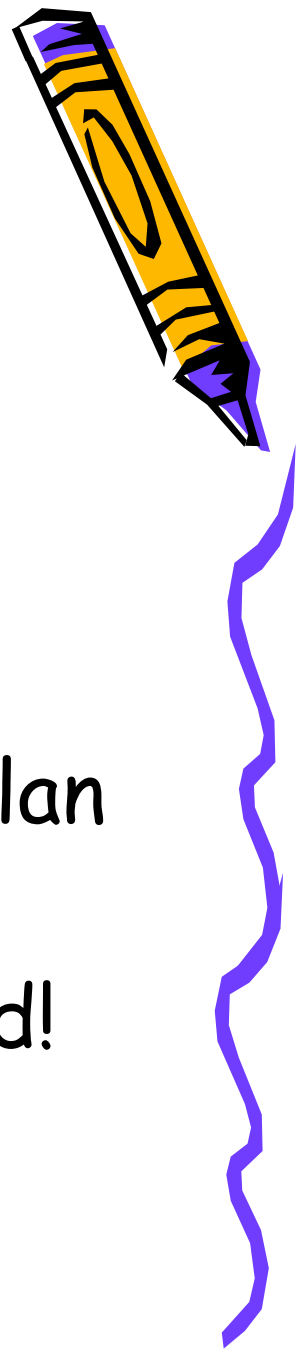
How to plan and write up your doctoral thesis



How to write your doctoral thesis

Aims of session

- Summarise key doctoral criteria
- Summarise key dissertation structure
- Summarise how to structure and plan writing up of specific chapters
- Time management for the terrified!



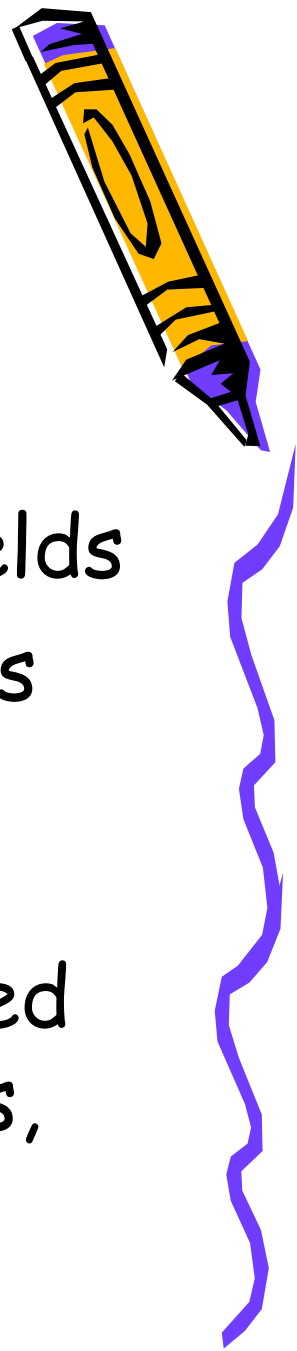
Aim of doctoral thesis to demonstrate

- The creation & interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the discipline & merit publication
- systematic acquisition & understanding of substantial body of knowledge at forefront of academic discipline
- ability to conceptualise, design, & implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding & modify in the light of unforeseen circumstances
- detailed understanding of techniques & advanced academic enquiry



Holders of a doctorate will be able to...

- Make informed judgements on complex issues in specialists fields
- communicate ideas & conclusions clearly & effectively to specialists/non-specialists
- continue to research at advanced level, developing new techniques, ideas & approaches



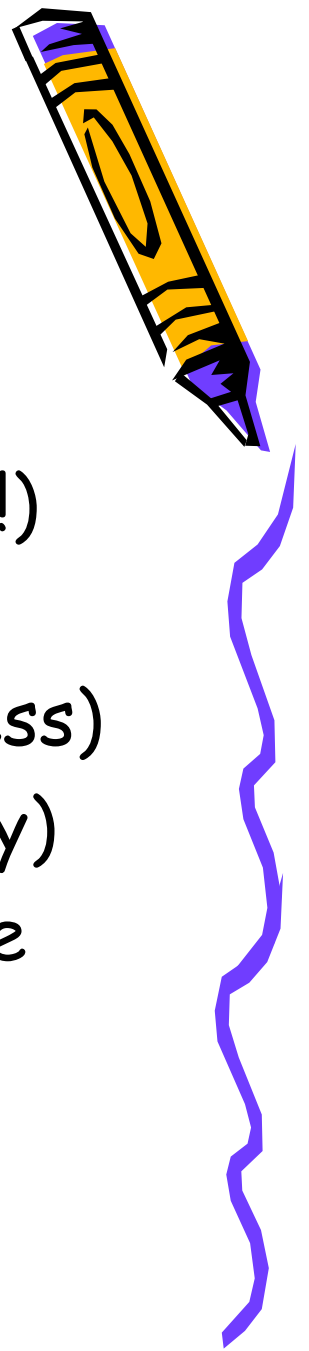
Doctoral project



- Thesis- new experience & often daunting, large piece of work over long timescale-
- for M Phil/PhD minimum time to submission is 2 years full time but.....
- With your supervisor you should establish a clear timetable for the planning, execution & writing up of your dissertation.
- Timetable is an aid to planning & successful completion- not source of stress!



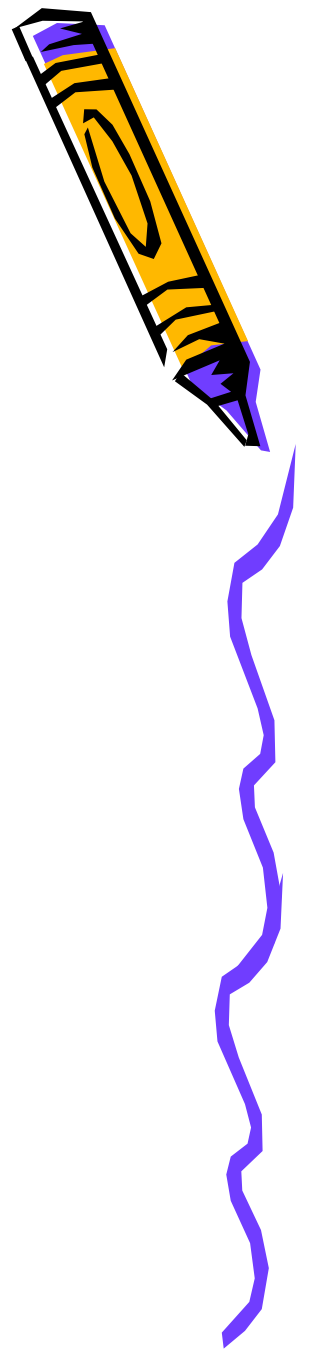
Project management



- Thesis submission on time is our goal
- achieve this by combination of setting short/long term goals (bite size chunks!)
- developing milestones
- identify project 'partners' (ethics, access)
- identify key tasks (data collection, entry)
- time management & project planning the key to success



Project partners

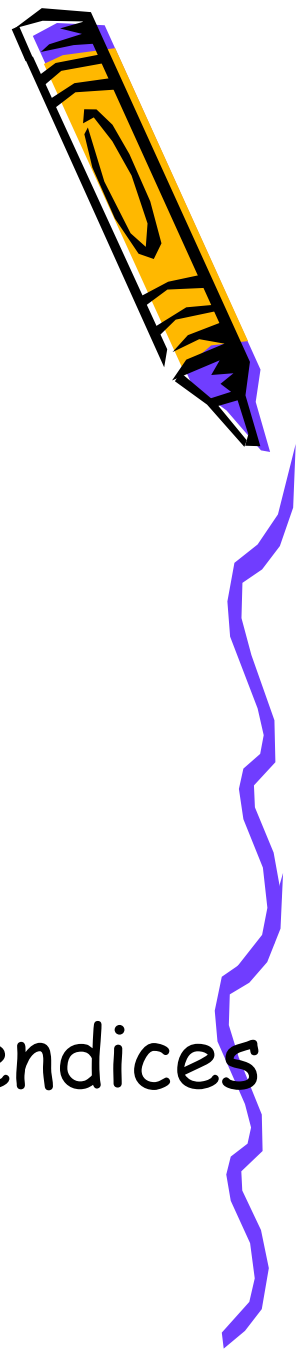


- Other people needed to help you complete
- supervisor- 'expert adviser'
- other staff (technical support, specialists)
- data access/ethics
- colleagues & other students (peer group support a key to success)
- family & friends



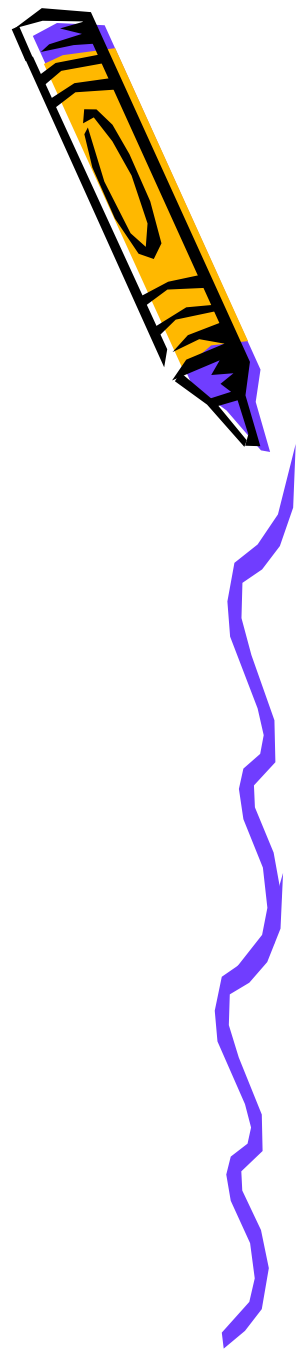
Structure of doctoral thesis

- Usually consists of 5 sections:
 - introduction/background
 - literature review
 - methods (& techniques)
 - results
 - discussion/conclusion
- Plus references & relevant appendices

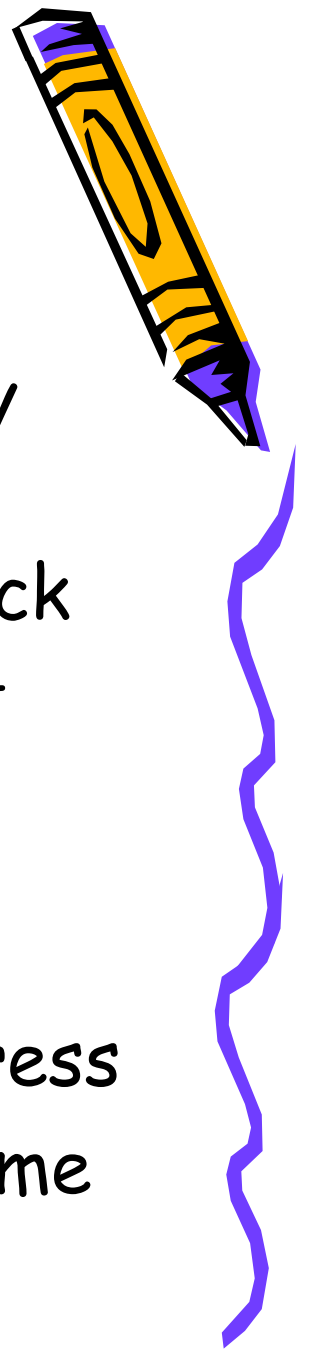


Improving time management

- Evaluate your use of time
- Focus on priorities
- Plan for more effective time use
- Use time more effectively
- Create time
- Avoid distractions
- Ask for help if you get stuck or need encouragement



Planning your thesis

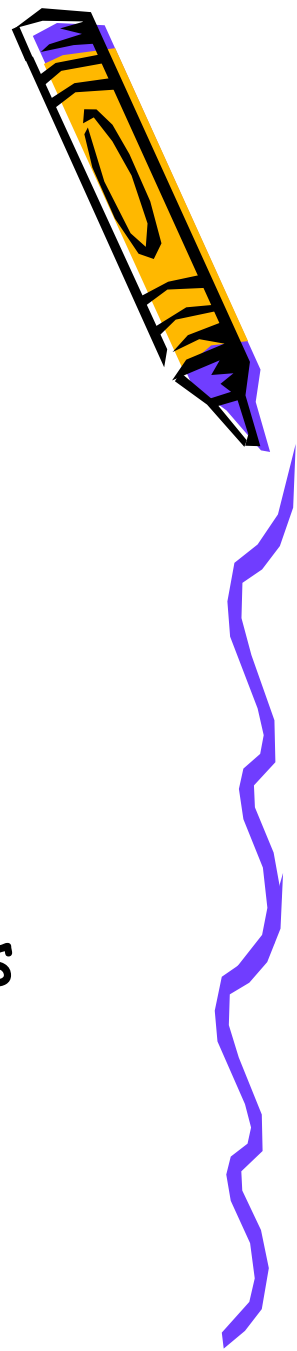


- Use time effectively by having a combination of termly , weekly and daily plans until deadline
- Make a timetable (with deadlines) & stick to them & link to supervision timetable- have drafts prepared for discussion & questions
- Set realistic deadlines- deadlines are meant to be helpful, not a source of stress

Show structure to supervisor & allow time for feedback



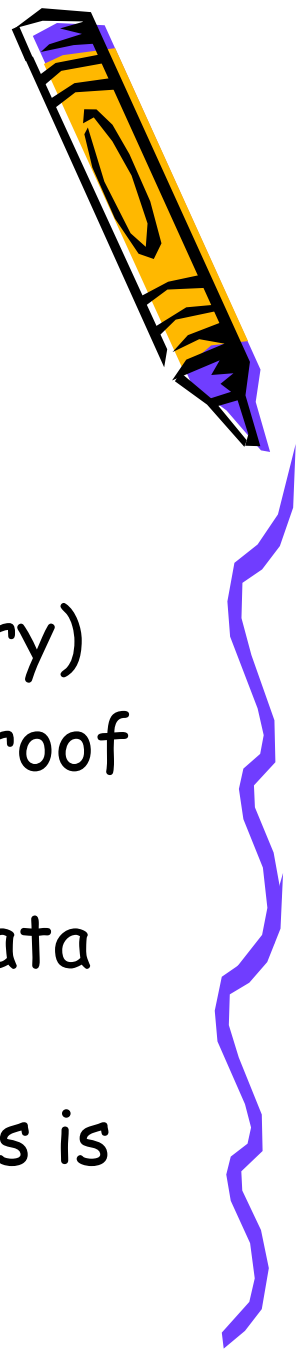
Planning devices



- Establish 'task lists'
- Establish writing timetables
- Make detailed plans for structure
- Identify when you work best (morning, afternoon, evening)
- Put aside 'protected time' for big tasks
- Have a notebook with you to record brilliant ideas



Determining thesis tasks priorities

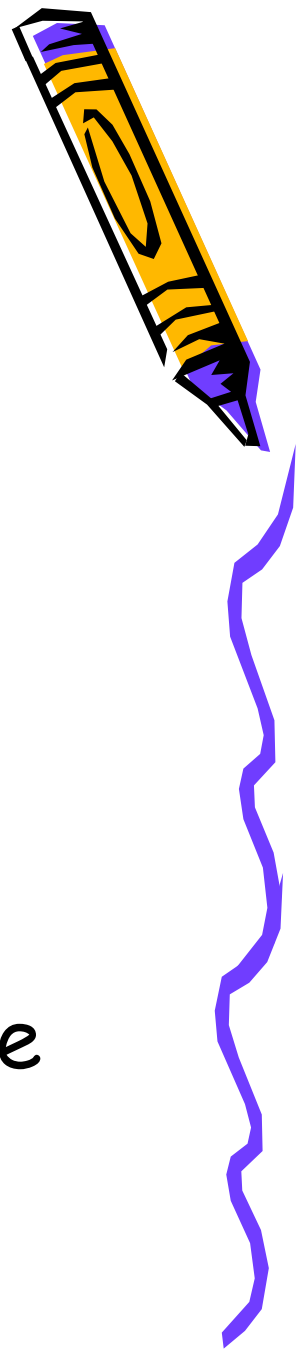
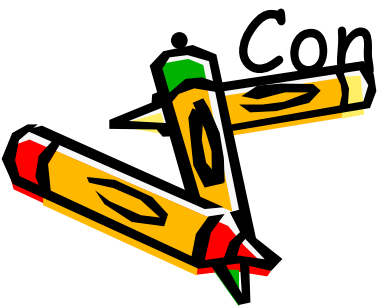


- Class A- Important and urgent (making plan and word budget)
- Class B- Important or urgent (data entry)
- Class C: neither but need to be done (proof reading, checking tables)!
- Class D: neither and could be binned (data analysis irrelevant to the question)
- YOU must establish your priorities- this is **YOUR** thesis



Create time

- Get up earlier (or go to bed later!)
- Use 'dead' time effectively (lunch hours/travel time)
- Get others to share the load
- Delegate if possible
- Control how OTHERS use your time
- Control distractions....



Procrastination or reasons for delaying writing up!



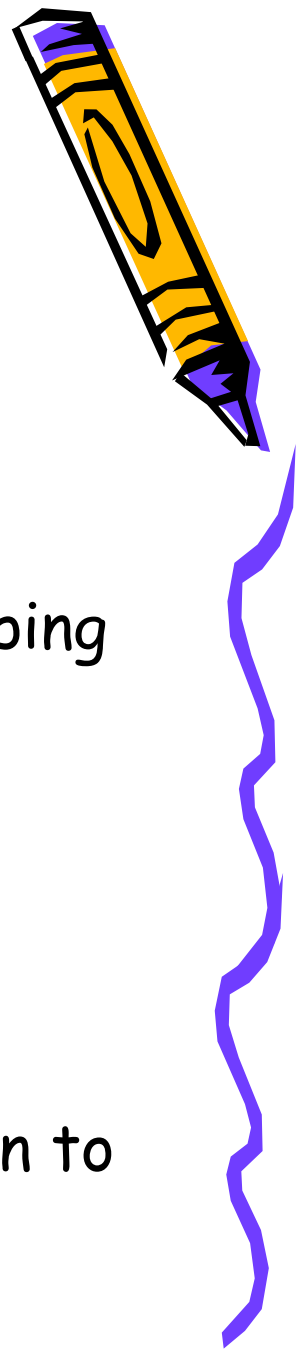
- Procrastination is the thief of time...' (Edward Young). If you ignore it the thesis (or deadline) will not go away!
- Task too big, too hard, too unfamiliar, too dull!!!
- Paralysis by planning
- Perfectionism (Nobel prize syndrome)
- Boredom

Deadline 'too far away!'

- Insecurity / fear of failure



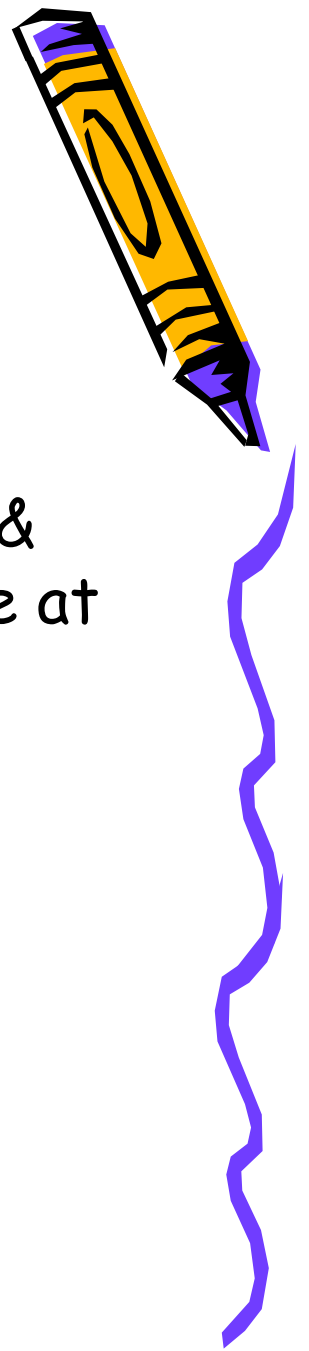
Overcoming procrastination



- Divide 'big' tasks into small chunks (fun size segments of 250 words)
- Check off 'little tasks' as you go along (eg keeping reference lists accurate & complete)
- Keep dated back-up copies
- Find the most conducive environment/time
- Take time out- reward yourself for what you have done
- If you get stuck with one task/section move on to another & then go back to it



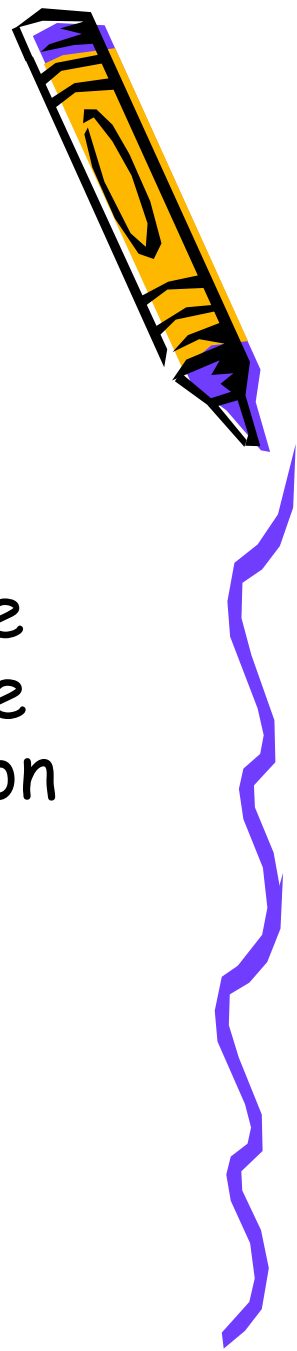
Suggested reading



- Project management books may help
- Martin, V (2002) Managing projects in health & social care, OU Press (plus supporting website at <http://www.healthknowledge.org.uk>)
- How to get a PhD. E.S. Phillips & D.S. Pugh, McGraw Hill, 2005
- Microsoft Project 2000 project management software (compatible with office)



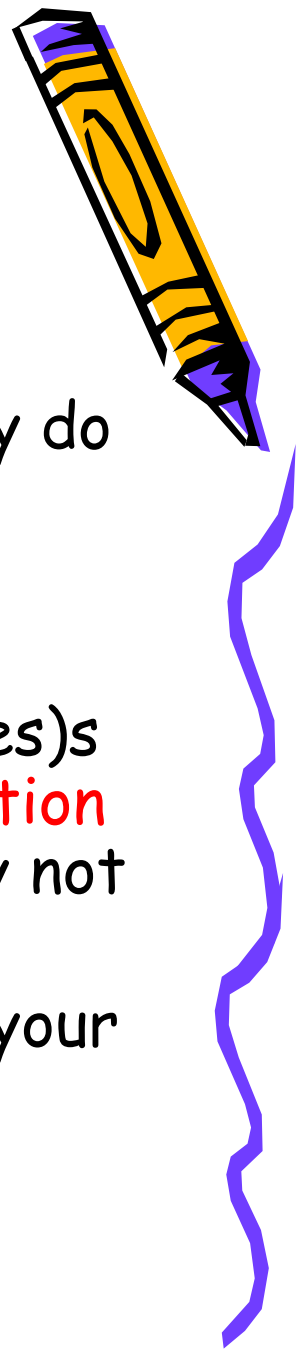
Writing your doctoral thesis



- Plan your write up- this is time management and forward planning
- Remember- in a thesis YOU must define the question(s) and you must deliver the answer(s) (in general you are assessed on how well you do this!)
- Even if your results are non-significant/not as expected you **MUST** discuss them in terms of the question originally set



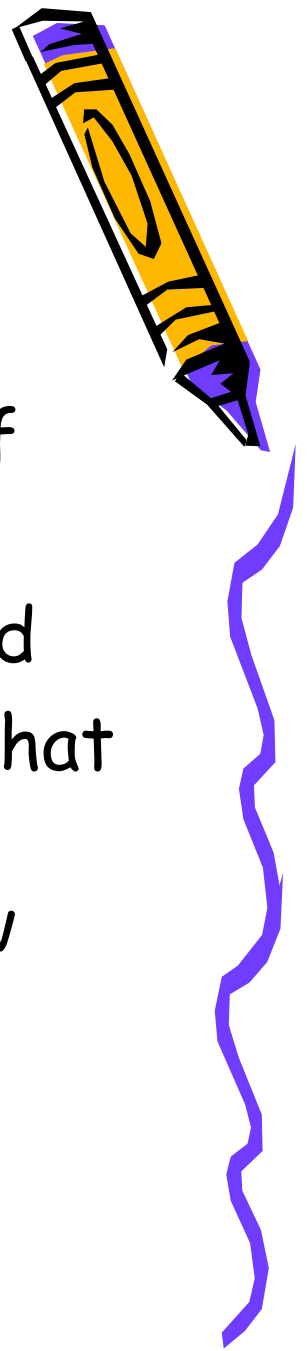
Thesis planning- role of each chapter



- Chapter one: **Introduction**/policy context- why do this study/location/policy etc
- Chapter two: **Literature review**- establish theoretical & academic framework
- In most "Basic Science" PhDs and many MD(Res)s one and two will be combined into an **Introduction** chapter including a literature review-this may not be as "systematic" as in some other areas.
- Decide with your supervisor which model fits your study best.



Thesis planning- role of each chapter

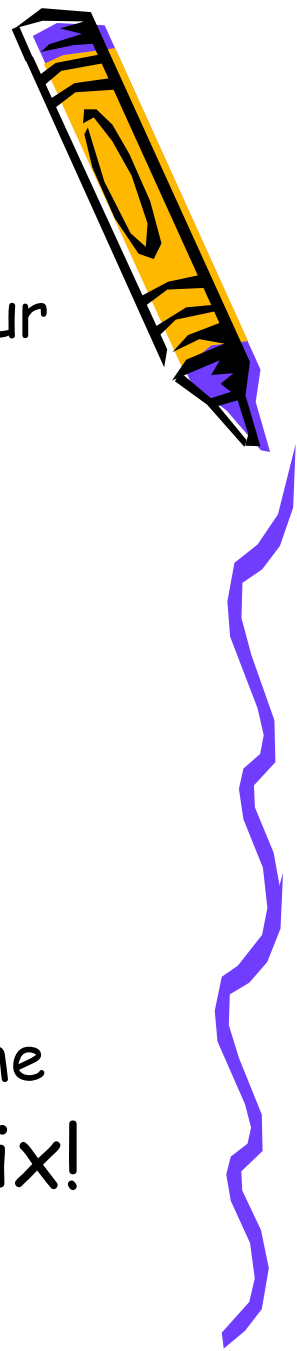


- Chapter three: **Methods**- description of how undertook study
- Chapter four: **Results**- what did you find
- Chapter five: **Discussion**/conclusions- what do your finding mean, link to theory/literature and for practice- new questions arising from study



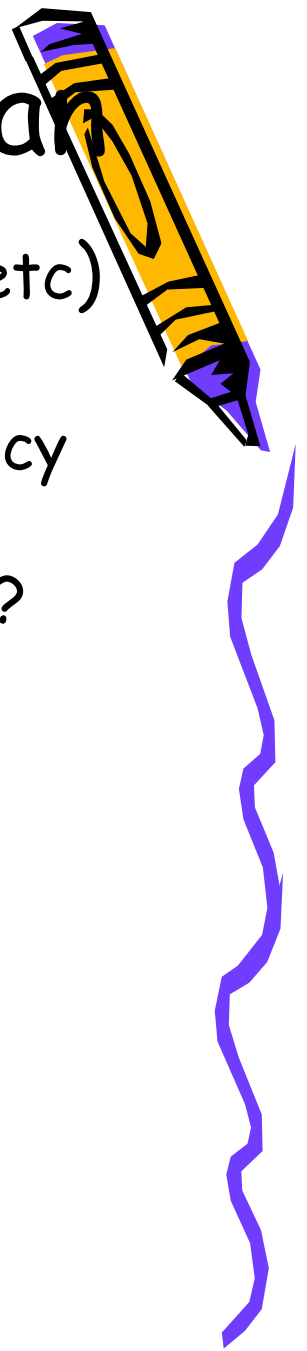
Thesis planning

- Using the specified format make a plan of your dissertation
- Chapter one: introduction/policy context
- Chapter two: literature review
- Chapter three: method
- Chapter four: results
- Chapter five: discussion/conclusions
- Appendix A: e.g. letter from ethics ctte.
- Appendix B: e.g. recruitment letters
- Appendix C: e.g. raw data, computer programme
- You do not have to have an appendix!



Making a chapter specific plan

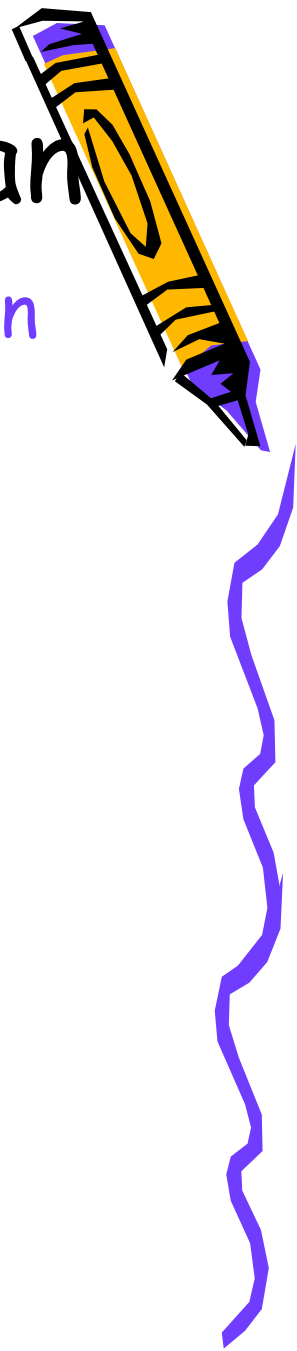
- Plan contents of chapters (inc tables, figures etc)
- E.g. Loneliness in the elderly
- Chapter one concerned with introduction/policy context & could be structured thus:-
 - why is loneliness important for older people?
 - who are older people?
 - why are we concerned about older people
 - key policies for older people
 - definition of loneliness
 - theoretical perspectives on loneliness
 - study area/local context



Making a chapter specific plan

E.g. Histochemical study of the Octopus brain

- Structure of Octopus brain
- Histochemical studies of neurotransmitters
- Functions of transmitters
- Gaps in knowledge
- Aims & Objectives



Make word budgets*



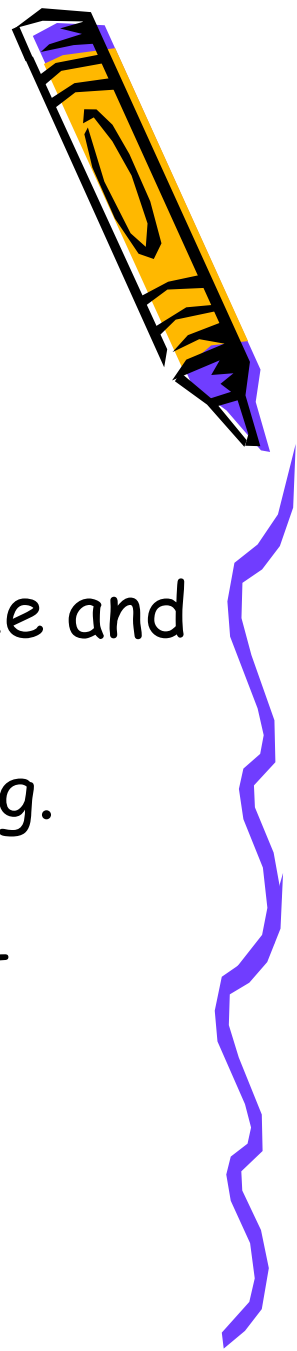
- Make a word budget **for each** chapter
- Make a word budget **within each** chapter
- EG for introduction for loneliness project- budget 5,000 words divided
 - who are older people? (750 words)
 - why are we concerned about older people (500 words)
 - key policies for older people (1,000 words)
 - definition of loneliness (500 words)
 - theoretical perspectives on loneliness (1,250 words)
 - study area/local context (1000 words)
 - plan & number figures/tables (even if data not yet ready) and any relevant appendices

* Some people find it easier to just write and then edit afterwards



Word budgets & thesis plan

- Previous examples are indicative and NOT prescriptive
- Each thesis is unique and hence the balance and emphasis will vary
- There other ways of organising a thesis e.g. General Intro, General Methods, multiple specific results chapters each with a mini-specific intro/methods/discussion, overall discussion&conclusion.



Check your English!!!

- Don't use double negatives (cannabis should not be decriminalised)
- Avoid mixing metaphors (take the bull by the hand)
- Never, ever use repetitive redundancies
- If you reread and edit your work, you will find on rereading that a great deal of repetition and redundancy can be avoided by rereading and editing
- In my view you should avoid colloquialisms and cliches like the plague, seek viable alternative options

Proof read carefully to check if you any words left out (sloppy text may indicate sloppy results collection / analysis!)

how to write your doctoral thesis



Examples of topics for inclusion in an Introduction/ Literature review chapter depending upon thesis topic

Introduction: set out purpose of chapter

Aims of review

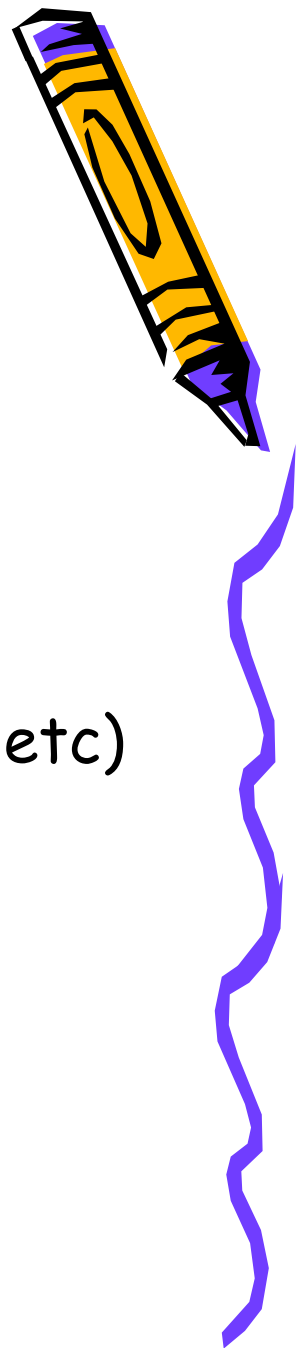
Review of appropriate theories / hypotheses

Methods of review (databases, search terms etc)

Results of review (papers identified etc)

Review of study methodologies

Review of results and identification of gaps

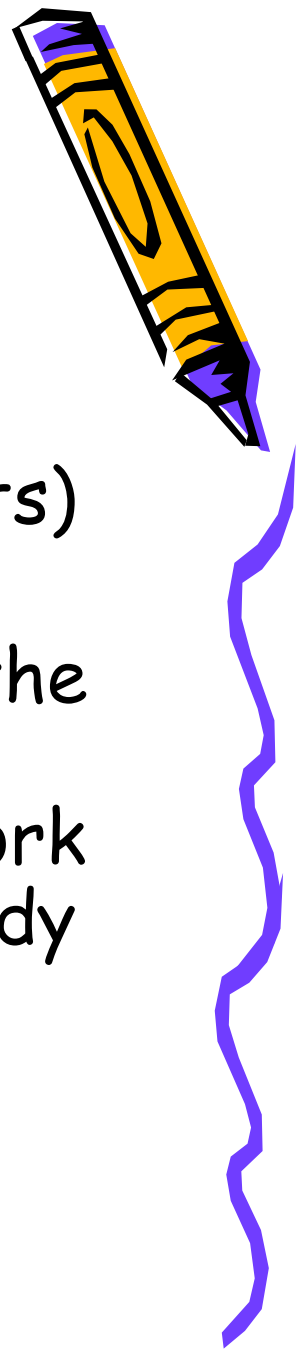


Key criteria for lit review

- Key criteria is as follows: 'is the literature review critical, systematic, comprehensive and up-to-date'
- Your chapter will be judged against this standard and you must provide evidence that you have meet the criteria in the way you write up the chapter.
- Thesis must be located within literature to demonstrate 'advancement' of subject/discipline
- Literature review/introduction also links to the discussion-how your results fit (or do not) and advance the field.



Literature review



- This should contain details of both the process of undertaking the review (if appropriate) and the outcome (or results) of your review
- The literature review usually provides the academic justification for your study , identifies relevant theoretical framework and justification for methods used, study design, analysis strategy and variables collected



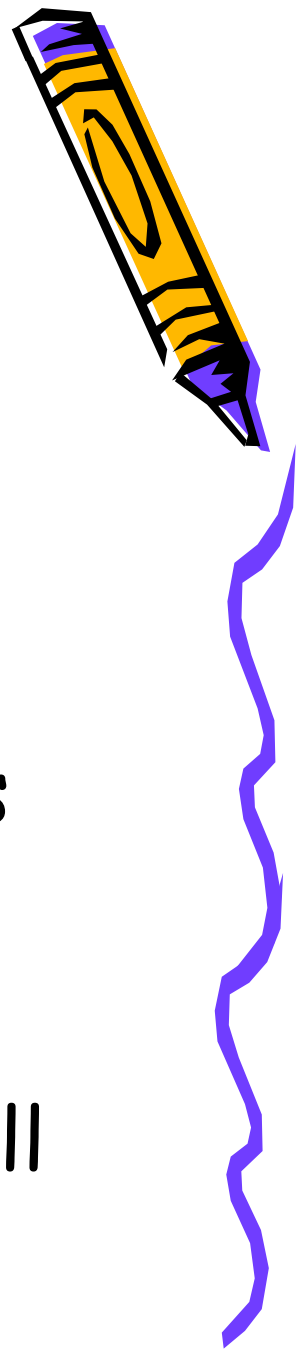
Literature review



- A good literature review is systematic, comprehensive, explicit and reproducible
- These qualities should be demonstrated in your chapter
- Literature review concerned with evaluating theory/research evidence-
summary of current policies/policy context
go in introduction



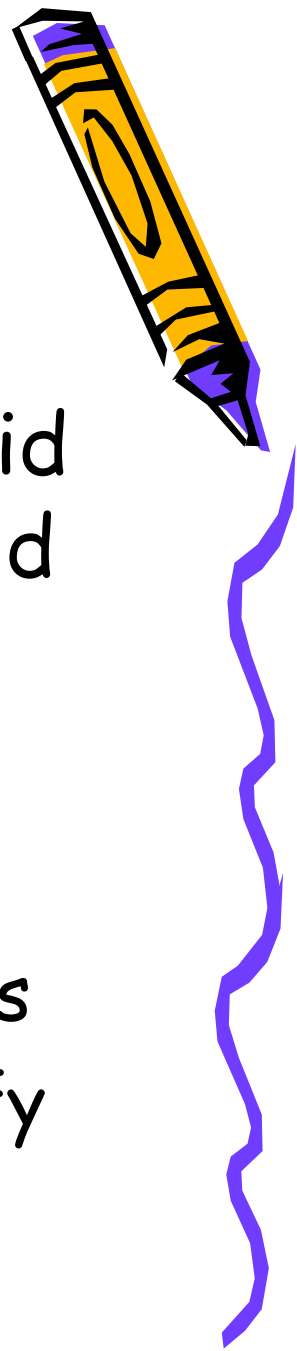
Contents of the literature review



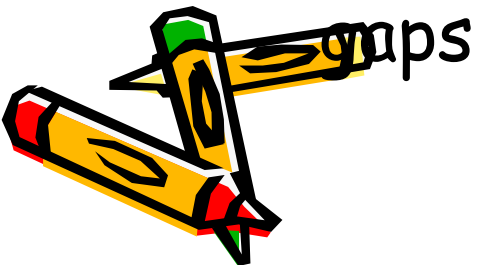
- establishing the theoretical framework for the study
- describing the review process
- reviewing methodologies/measures used in previous research studies
- reviewing results of research
- establishing gaps your study will fill



Process of undertaking review



- Crucial aspect to write up is why did you undertake the review. What did you hope to gain by it?
- Describe objectives of review
 - identify/review appropriate theories
 - review methodologies/tools/measures
 - review current knowledge and identify



Process of undertaking review

- Describe objectives of review
 - identify/review appropriate theories
 - review methodologies/tools/measures
 - review current knowledge and identify gaps
- Describe process of undertaking review
 - key search terms used
 - databases searched
 - inclusion/exclusion criteria



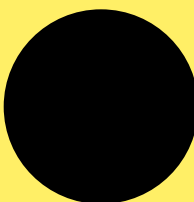


Objectives of review



- Using the example of a dissertation looking at loneliness amongst older people the aims of the lit review might be:
- To identify the theoretical frameworks
- To evaluate measures used to describe the prevalence of loneliness
- To consider the prevalence of loneliness amongst older people





Process of undertaking review: establishing the theoretical context

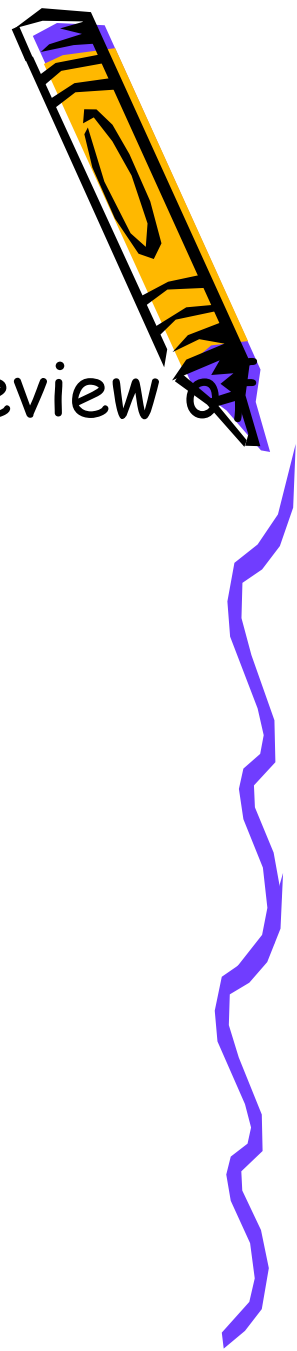


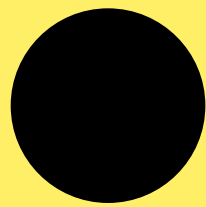
- Describe methods for identifying and evaluating relevant theories as first major section of your chapter
 - for the theory section most likely to be handsearching of key articles and books
 - review merits/disadvantages of theories (eg continuity, disengagement & activity theories of ageing)
 - identify theoretical framework most appropriate to the question (eg using continuity theory to understand loneliness in later life)



Process of undertaking review

- Describe methods of undertaking review of research literature justify
 - key search terms used
 - databases searched
 - timeframe -from when to when
 - hand-searching
 - inclusion criteria
 - exclusion criteria





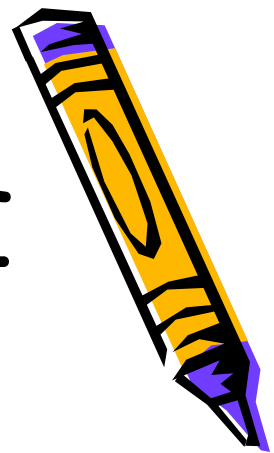
Process of undertaking review



- Flow diagram or summary of selection of research papers to review:
- Initial search=89 papers from all sources
- application of inclusion/exclusion criteria
 - non- English (6), letters (7), abstracts only (10), inappropriate population (9), non UK studies (5)
 - therefore 52 papers included in lit. review



Develop a proforma for summarising research papers I



- Correct bibliographic details
- Systematic summary of **method**
 - What was the study done on? definition and source of study population or animal species, cell line, bacterial culture, tissue & its source
 - sample size
 - place/time of study-may also apply to non-human studies
 - measures used (inc reliability/validity)
 - Routes /doses/sources of drugs used
 - response rates and data quality
 - statistical analysis used (right test?)



Proforma for summarising papers II



- Details of **results** such as:
 - key findings (do not rely on the abstract or summary !) e.g. Did the drug work? How effective? Did it work in everyone studied? How big was the placebo effect? What was the comparator treatment?
 - purpose of study in relation to results
 - comment upon major limitations





Example of proforma

definition and source of study population:

people aged 65+ on GP lists

sample size: *587 (no justification)*


place and time of study: *4 areas of England in 1963*

measures used: *self reported prevalence of loneliness. No evidence of reliability/validity*



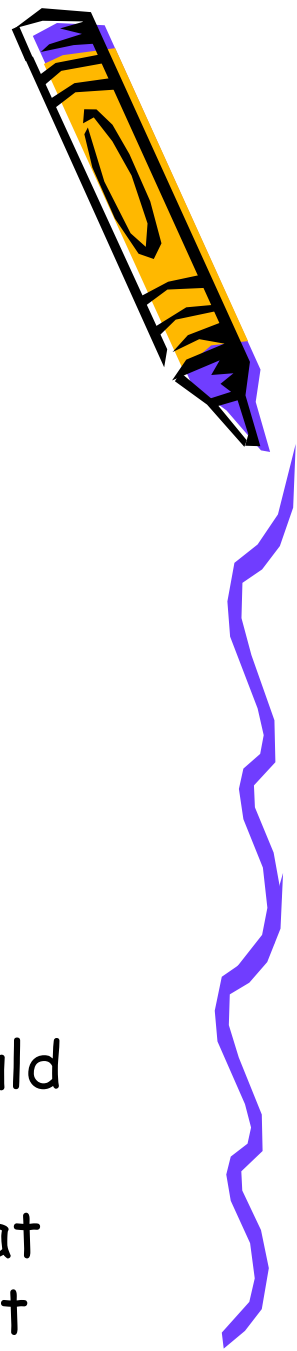


Review both method & results

- 
- Using proforma summarise and critique (NOT describe) key issues concerning method/results of research studies
 - Present summaries as tables (full results in appendix?) and highlight key points
 - eg 45/50 studies devised own measure of loneliness therefore difficult to compare
 - no recent UK studies
 - will help to identify gaps your study will fill



Review **both** method and results



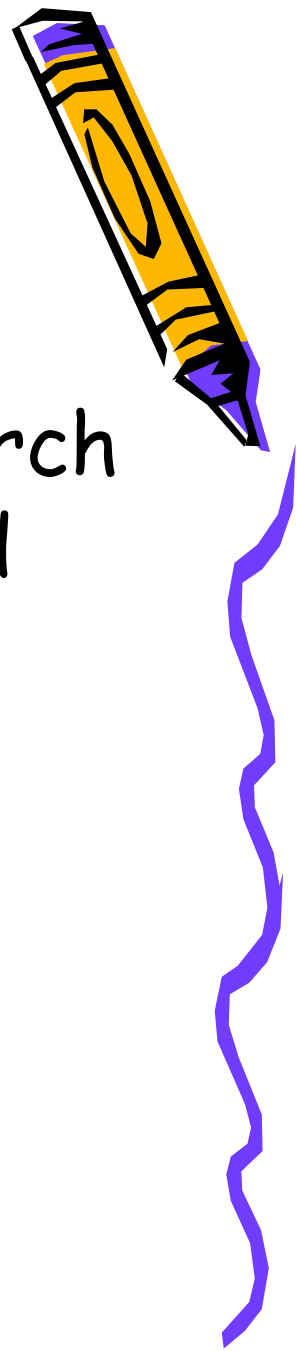
- At end of literature review you should summarise:
 - the theoretical approach underpinning your work
 - how your method influenced by theory & previous studies (measures used, variables recorded)
 - key gaps in knowledge/practice- these should link directly to your objectives

provides the academic justification for what you are studying and how you are studying it



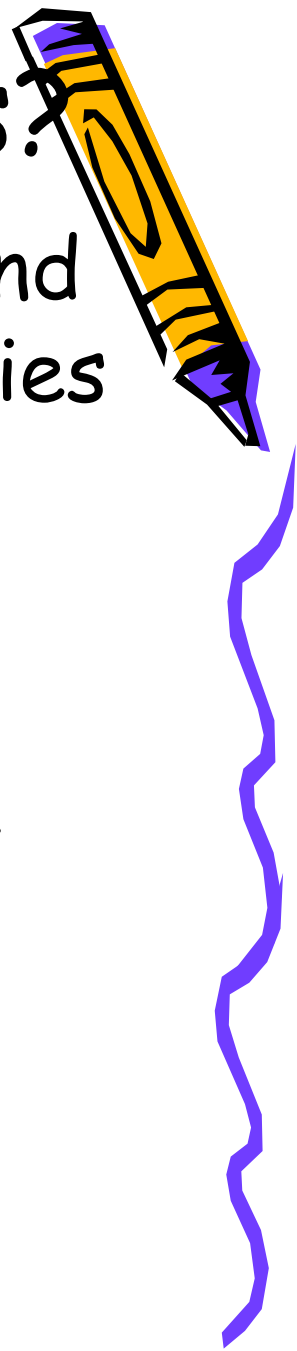
Suggested reading

- Fink, A., (1998). Conducting research literature reviews. Sage, Thousand Oaks, Calif.
- Hart, C., (1998). Doing a literature review. Sage, London.



What are research methods?

- Methods refers to the selection and use of particular research strategies and tools in order to achieve your stated research objectives
- Note the different research methods traditions (quantitative & qualitative)-'wet' & 'dry' science

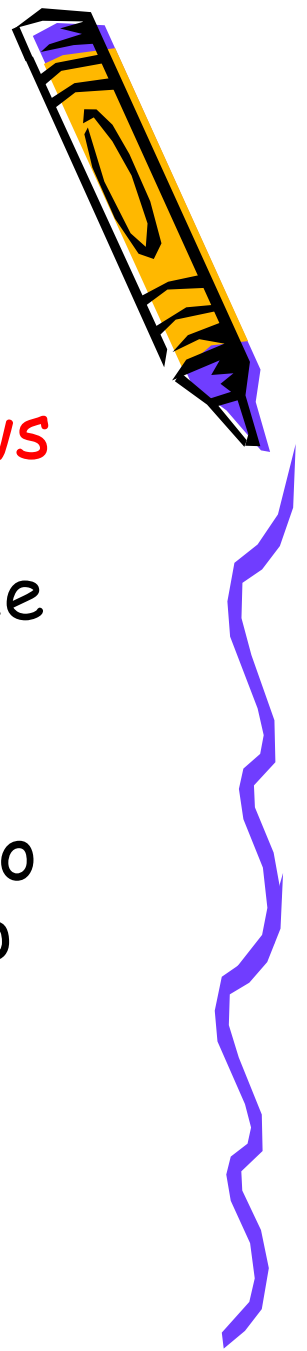


The role of the methods chapter?

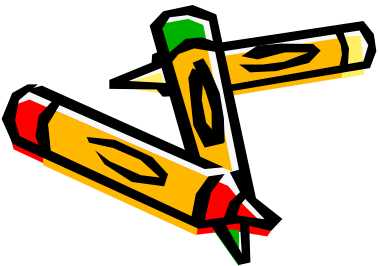
- Having posed your original research question the methodology chapter describes how you went about solving it.
- Depending upon type of project it may be used to justify choices of method made in terms of both theory/literature & objectives
- Demonstrates the relevance of your work to the potential problem & links with theoretical framework/literature



Why have a methods chapter?

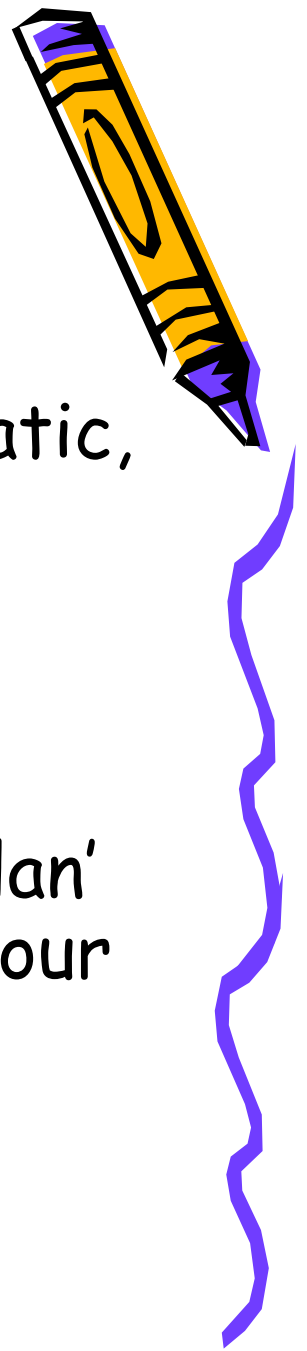


- Clear description of methods used **allows others to replicate your work**- a key attribute of 'good' research & of science more generally
- From your description another student/staff member should be able to replicate your study and refine/develop your techniques
- transparency of decision making

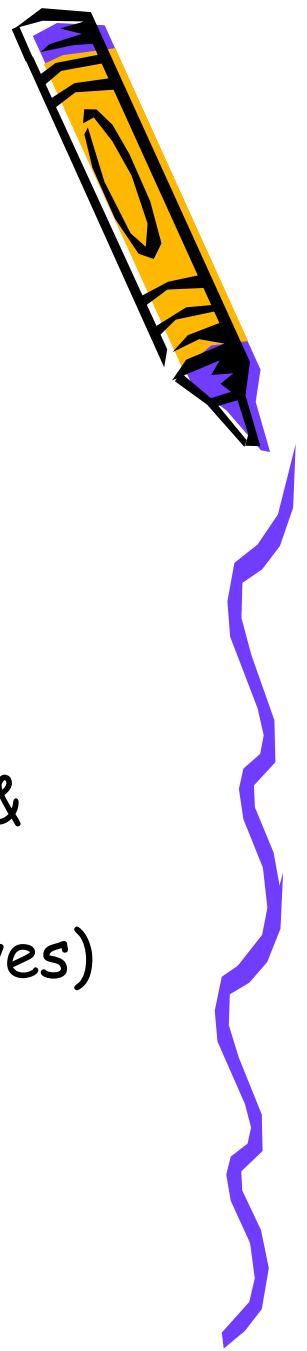


Methods chapter

- A good methods chapter is systematic, comprehensive, explicit and reproducible
- These qualities should be demonstrated in your chapter
- Methods concerned with 'original plan' and should be largely based upon your protocol (if you have one!)



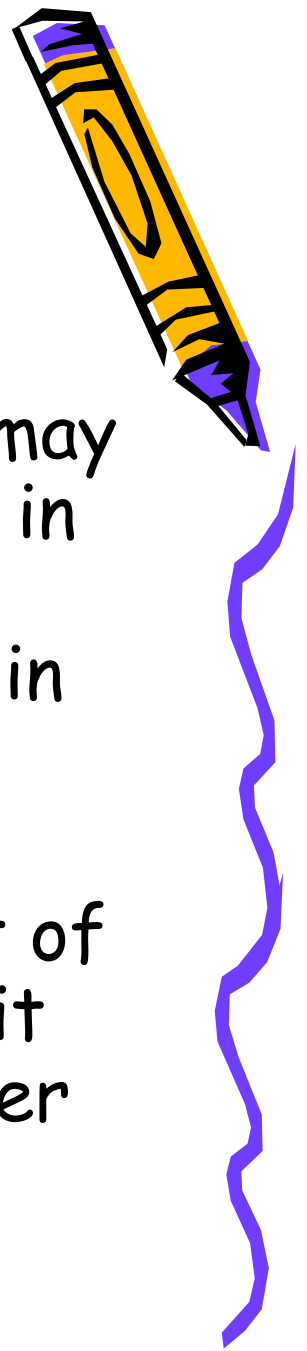
Contents of the methods chapter I



- Restate study objectives & theoretical perspectives & link to appropriate type of research methodology (see also next slide)
- description of the methods use (in sufficient detail to enable replication)
- details of pilot study, technical developments & any subsequent modifications
- details of analysis strategy (linked to objectives)
- details of ethical / legal approval) e.g. Local Ethics Ctte, Human Tissue Act, 1986 Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act.



Contents of the methods chapter II



- In some studies the methods selected may have been justified in the Introduction in relation to the literature and in others they may be reviewed in the discussion in terms of the limitations to the interpretation of the results obtained
- Some studies may involved development of a new method as a result in which case it should probably go in the Results chapter





Restate objectives

- Restate study objectives
 - describe prevalence of loneliness amongst older people
 - describe how loneliness varies by key demographic factors
 - describe time trends in loneliness



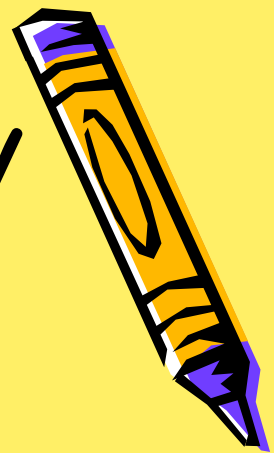


Link objectives to theory

- Study concerned with quantification & search for associations therefore it is a quantitative/empiricist type of study. We are concerned with counting NOT understanding/explaining



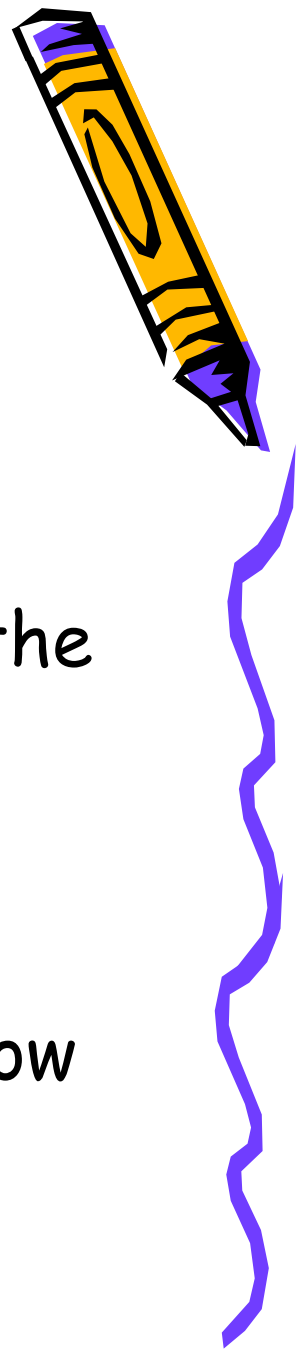
● Link objectives to theory & appropriate method



- Study concerned with quantification & search for associations & trends over time therefore a large scale type survey is appropriate.
- We could not answer our research question using a qualitative methodology which focuses upon meanings and actions
- Explicit link with research methods theory



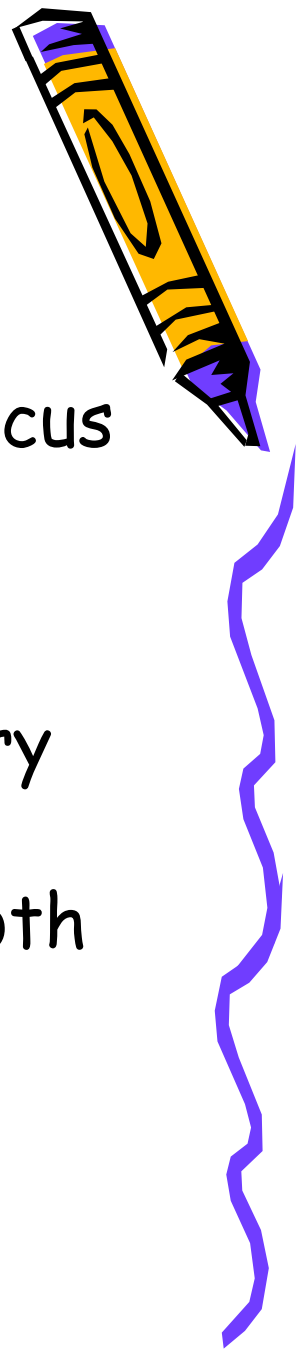
Key aspects of methods chapter-will depend upon type of study



- For a dissertation looking at loneliness amongst older people or a clinical trial the methodology would cover:
- Definition of **type of study**
- Definition of **study population**
- **Selection of study population**: where, how & why were participants identified



Methodological approach selected-project specific



- **Selection of method:** e.g. interviews, focus groups, clinical trial, case note review, postal questionnaire, self-complete questionnaire, PCR, in vitro tissue bath, cell culture, transgenic animal, telemetry etc.
- justify **choice of method** in terms of both theoretical framework/literature & objectives -may not apply to Methods chapter in all cases.



Selection of method

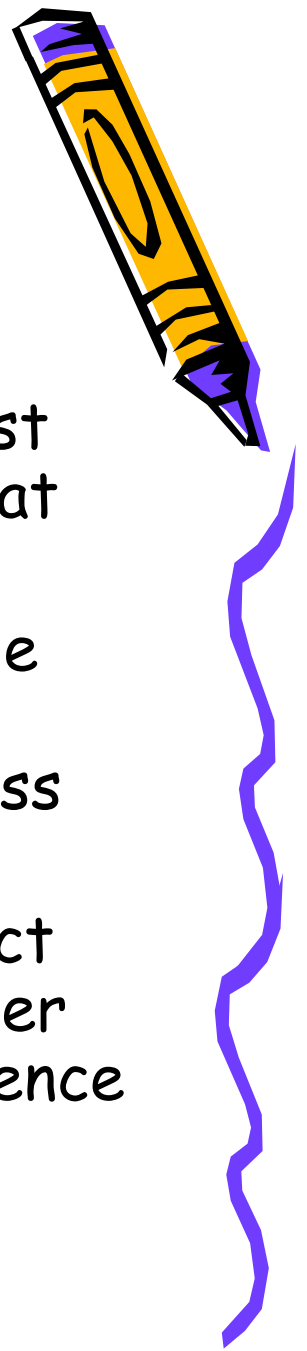


- EG prevalence study of loneliness used a direct interview
- Why? Because (a) study objective is to count and (b) previous studies have therefore facilitates comparison
- Note nothing inherently wrong in using mixed methods (but you must be clear as to why you did this) & must be able to link data sets



Sample size-applies to all studies

- Sample size - **how many** studied & **why**? Must have a justification for your sample size that links to objectives
- May be able to undertake 'statistical' sample size calculation or if not must offer some rationale for intended sample size regardless of methodology used.
- For studies under 1986 ASPA look at Project Licence where sample size and possibly power calculations will have been included-the Licence sets limits upon numbers

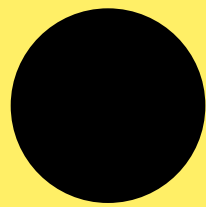




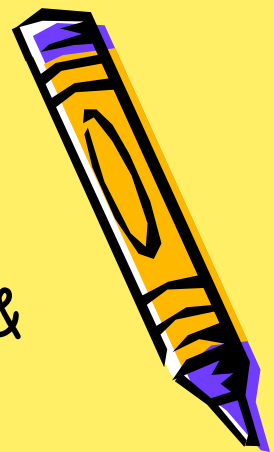
Sample size justification

- Sample size - EG want to be able to compare two groups using a postal survey-
- We could estimate sample size by (a) determining how many needed in each group for comparison say 60 (b) typical response rate to postal questionnaire say 55%. So in order to get 60 interviews in each group we would need to send out 220 questionnaires





Data collection methods



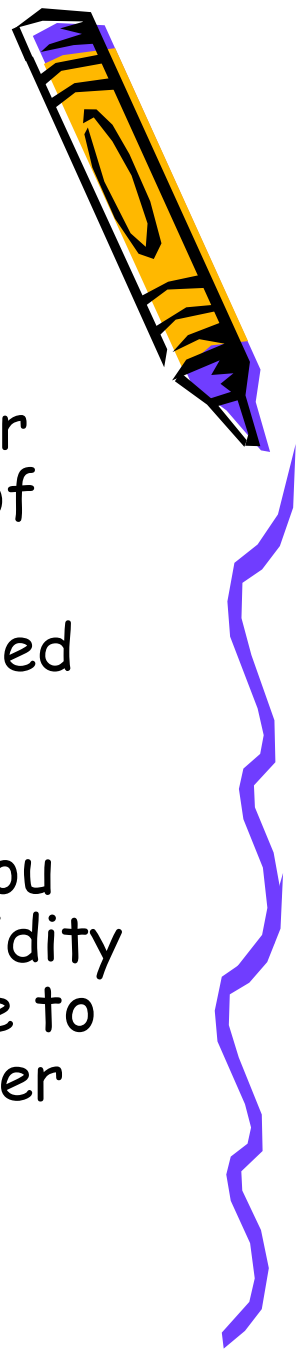
- Data collection methods: what did you use & why (questionnaire, topic guide)
- how did you decide upon topics included (link to theory, literature & objectives)
- is it 'original' or derived from elsewhere?
- how did you decide upon response format

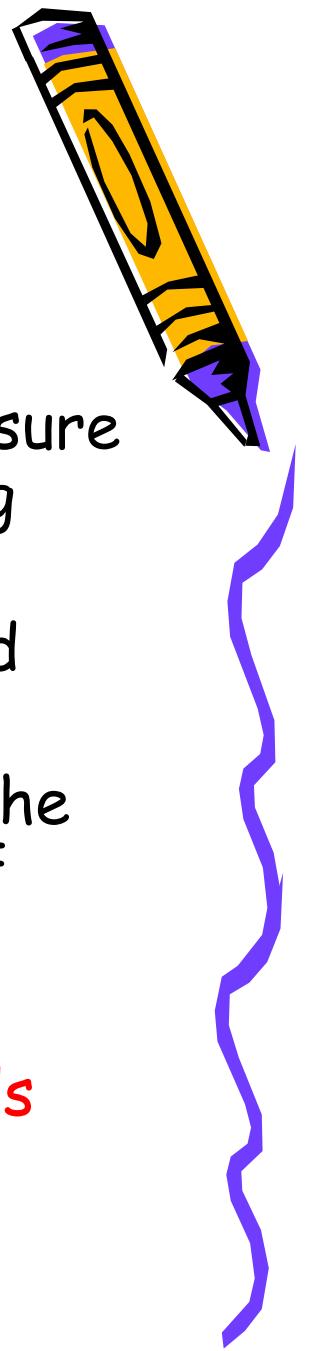
EG why collect data that is irrelevant to study objectives



Reliability & validity

- Need to discuss reliability & validity of your data collection methods (may also be part of Discussion)
- If standardised measures (e.g. an established survey) refer to relevant papers-consider including a copy in Appendix.
- if you have developed own measures then you need to have evaluated their reliability/validity or at least to discuss how you might be able to do this-may be a results chapter (see earlier slide)





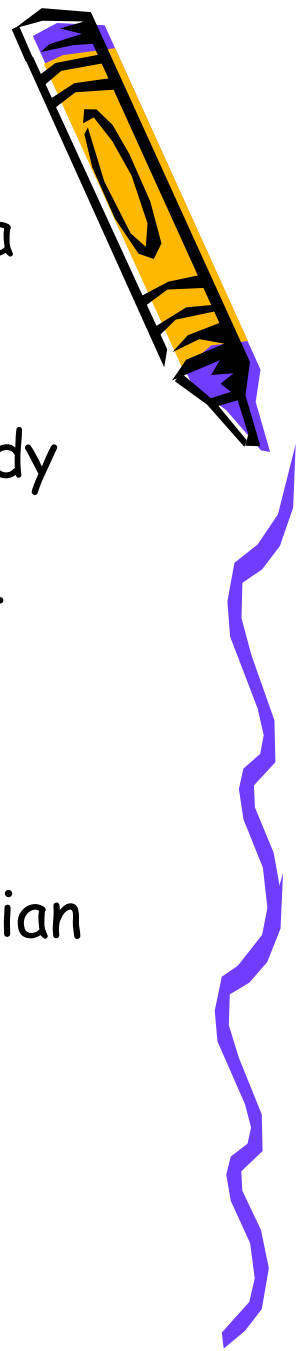
More reliability & validity

- We need to have confidence that your measure of X actually measures X and not something else that resembles X or is linked to X
- methods/interviewers/investigators should get same answer (reliability)
- If measures are neither reliable nor valid the results are of limited worth irrespective of how "good" they look and publication is no guarantee of quality!
- Be very aware of this requirement -methods are often the focus of a number of viva questions



Analysis plan

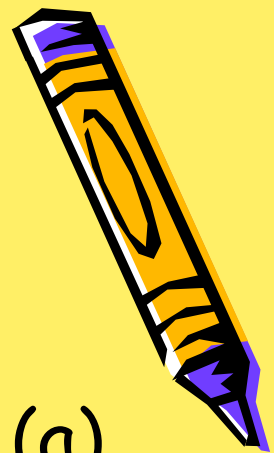
- Plans for analysis: having collected the data how are you going to make sense of it in a **rigorous and objective** manner?
- Must have an analysis plan that links to study objectives & theoretical framework
- Describe your plan in sufficient detail what tests & why.
- Needed for both quantitative & qualitative studies
- Seek advice early-do not expect a statistician to "find a test" that makes your results significant despite the design you adopted





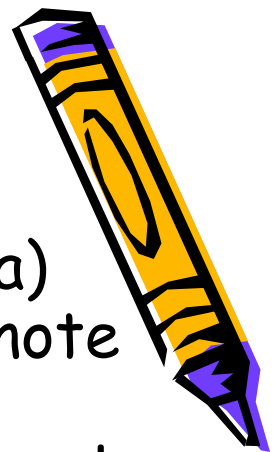
Pilot study

- Undertake a pilot study to test both (a) appropriateness of general method and (b) specific data collection measures
- EG loneliness pilot would test (a) ability to identify respondents from sample list (b) likely response rate and any problems with the questionnaire (either understanding or sensitive questions)
- Report any modifications & why

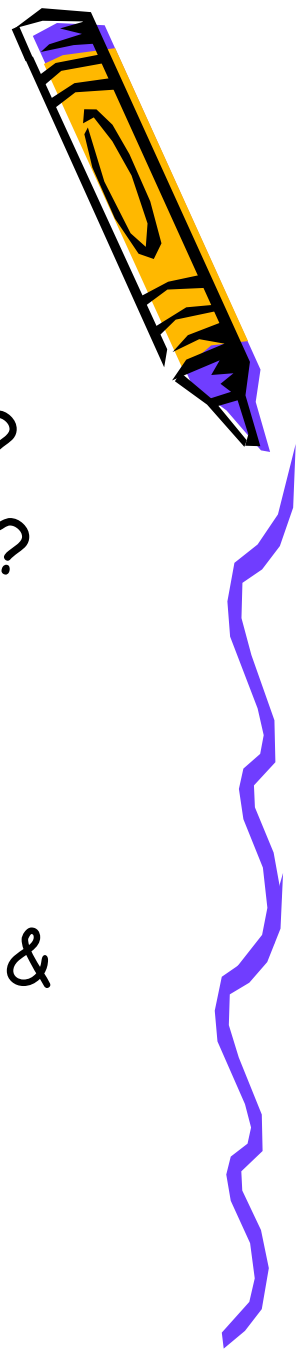


Ethics & legal framework

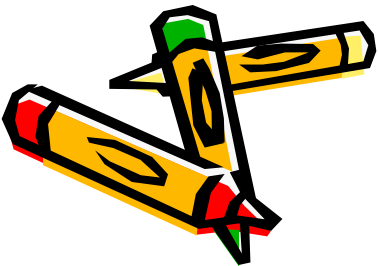
- Must have section on ethics- state either (a) you did not need ethical approval and why (note you should put formal letter stating this in appendix if appropriate) or (b) ethical approval given (copy of letter in appendix if applicable)
- state ethical code used (e.g. consent letters etc)
- state any formal permissions required (e.g. HTA, 1986 ASPA) & provide evidence where possible
- It is your responsibility to check that you/your project has the authority to perform the study **before** you undertake a procedure etc.



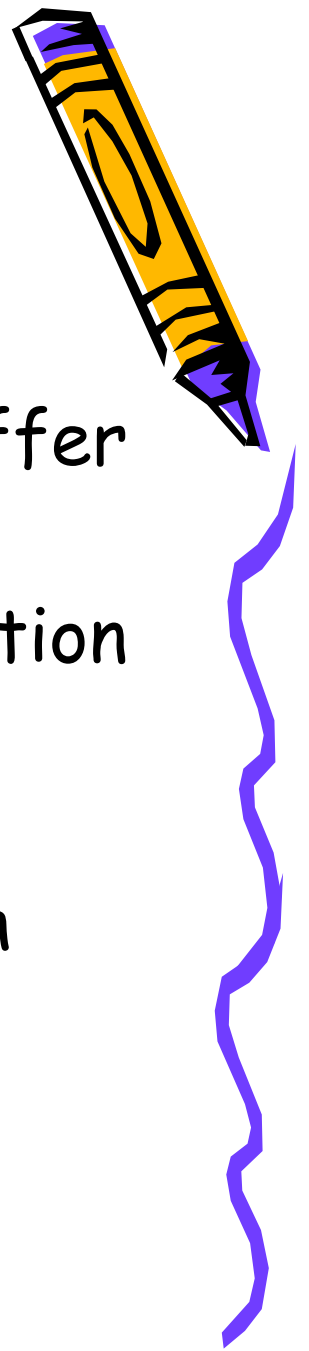
Key criteria for results chapter



- Do the data answer the question posed?
- Is full use made of all the observations?
- How reliable/reproducible are the observations?
- Are the findings internally consistent?
- Is the analysis appropriate to the type & nature of the data?



Content of results chapter



- Precise content varies so difficult to offer precise guidelines
- Regardless of methodology, results section goes beyond simple description and is concerned with analysis of data
- Analysis & results must clearly link with the study objectives





Content of results chapter



- Having posed your original research question the results chapter presents the 'answers' to these questions
- The initial objectives form the framework for structuring the results chapter
- Presenting results **NOT** interpreting them- what happened **NOT** why it happened





Contents of results chapter



- Every results chapter should have three major sections:
 - achievement of intended sample size (e.g. response rates, numbers of tests)
 - examination of data quality
 - analysis & presentation of study results





Achievement of sample

- Document how well you did (or did not) achieve estimated sample size
- Restate intended sample size and then describe achieved sample and justify why target not achieved
- Identify limiting factors for analysis if specific targets not achieved



● Response rate to survey of people aged 65-74 in Tooting



- The 185 non-responders were followed up
 - 27 were excluded because not on electoral roll
 - 14 had not consulted GP for 5+ years
- leaving 144 as 'true' non-responders





Non-response bias

- Are the 64% who replied representative of all people in Tooting?
- Non-response rarely unbiased- specific groups systematically fail to participate- eg those in good health may not reply to health survey
- Problem is to establish direction of bias- then can model it. However not often possible to estimate of direction of bias





Response rates- case note review



- In case note review of treatment of older people with fractured neck of femur
- 60 cases identified but only 21 sets of case notes retrieved
- where have the others gone & does this bias the results obtained?

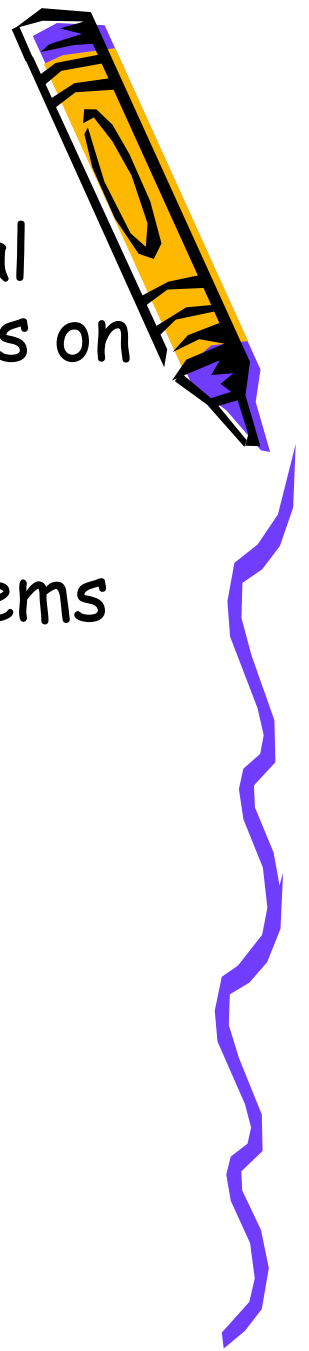


Data quality-applies to all projects

- Before undertaking analysis, you should consider the quality of the data you have collected, critical thinking- does data merit/justify analysis?
- Various methods for doing this, depending upon method used.
- For taped interviews, material may be excluded because inaudible or because it is 'off the point'



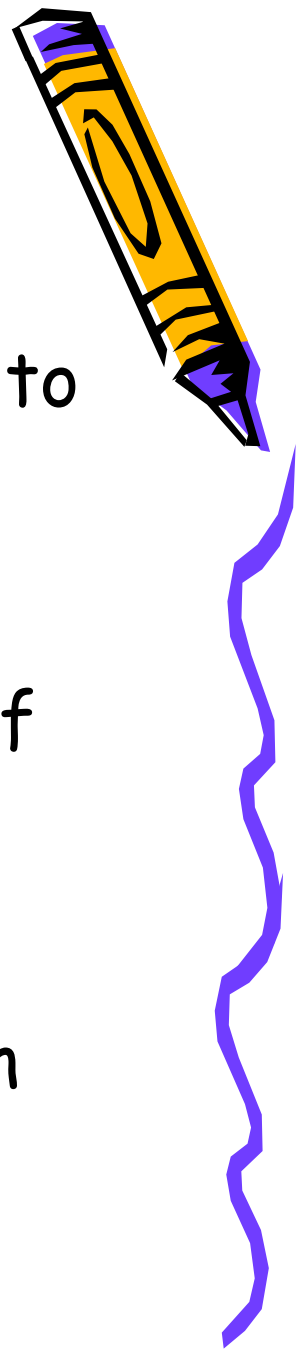
Data quality



- For interviews, case note studies, postal questionnaires review quality of answers on 'question by question' basis
- Look at each question/data item and quantify number of valid and missing items
- Should present as a table/output (in appendix?)
- Report on overall data quality in results
- Dealing with outliers, justification of removal of data



Data quality



- If data quality is poor you may have to exclude areas from analysis-this needs to be justified and reported (depend upon reason)
- Data should be open to audit (by your supervisor and others) and re-analysis if needed (may arise from viva and be a condition of revision)
- In some studies there are legal requirements attached to the collection and storage of data.



The 'results proper'

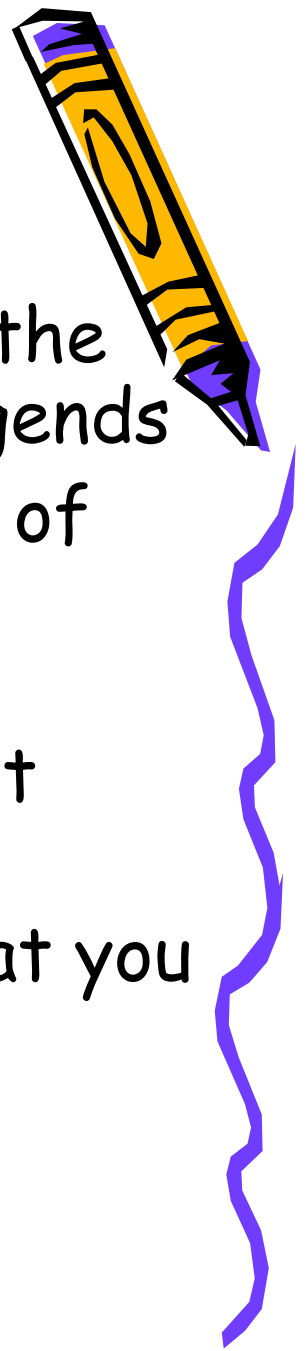


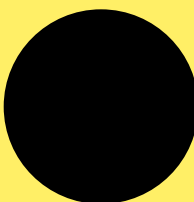
- Present in way which follows the objectives
- Use your theoretical framework & objectives to help structure the results
- Enables examiners to determine if you have achieved objectives
- Highlight key points/interesting/notable points including things 'not stated' -not necessary to comment upon everything



The 'results proper'

- Every table/figure needs mentioning in the text & commentary . They also need legends
- Help the reader to notice & make sense of patterns in the data
- Draw attention to the key/interesting/unexpected/missing/not stated results
- Use all your data- not just the parts that you like/fits with your preconceptions/is statistically significant



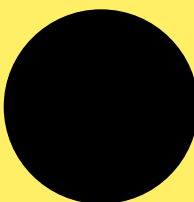


Sample results chapter structure for study of loneliness



- Study objectives were :
 - describe prevalence of loneliness
 - time trends in loneliness
 - examine relationship between demographic factors and loneliness
 - examine relationship between health factors and loneliness
 - method=postal questionnaire





Sample results chapter structure for study of loneliness



- Chapter structure:-
- response rate
- data quality & effect upon objectives/proposed analysis
- prevalence of loneliness
- time trends
- loneliness & demographic factors
- loneliness & health factors



Presenting data in tables and figures



- Consider level of detail required in tables/figures (how many decimal places, how many different categories - beware generating false sense of accuracy)
- Key results in text & detail in appendix (overall summary for quantitative data , details of derivation of themes for qualitative)
- Ensure tables/figures are relevant
- Do NOT duplicate data in tables & figures



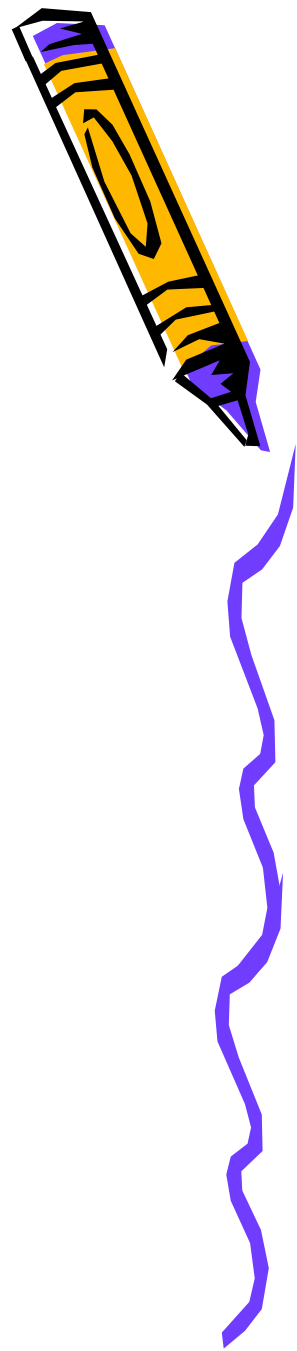
Tables checklist

- Accurate & full title & unique number
- Column & row headings
- Units clearly specified
- Relevant descriptive statistics (account for changes in denominators)
- Ensure totals add up in all relevant directions!



Checklist for figures

- Unique figure number
- Accurate & complete title
- Accurate labels for axes (giving units)
- Clear keys/legends



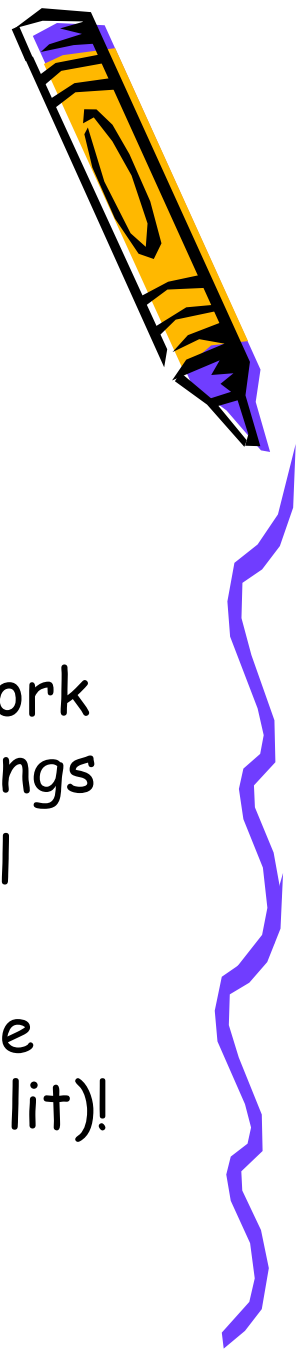
Key criteria for discussion chapter



- Are all study limitations identified & discussed?
- Could study have been improved?
- Are the conclusions justified by findings?
- Are the conclusions relevant to objectives?
- Are all observations used in reaching conclusion?
- Does the work show evidence of critical thought?
- Links to theory/literature
- Evidence of subject/discipline advancement



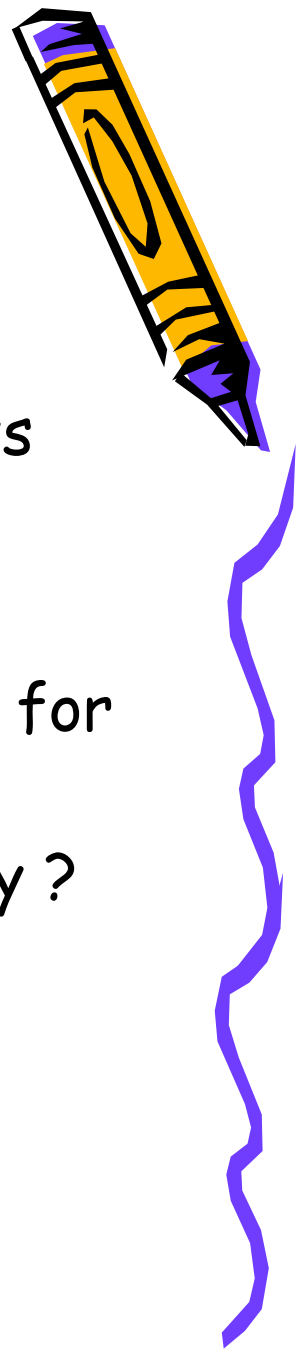
Aims of discussion chapter I



- Reflect upon the limitations of your study
- Reflect upon how well you achieved your objectives
- Discuss your findings in relation to previous work & any new work prompted by unexpected findings
- Discuss your findings in relation to theoretical framework
- Do not introduce NEW data (except qualitative projects where new themes may require more lit)!



Aims of discussion chapter II



- Assess what confidence you have in the results
- Comment specifically upon reliability/validity
- Reflect upon the limitations of your study
- Discuss the the implications of any limitations for achievement of objectives
- With hindsight how would you do it differently ?
- What new research questions does study generate?



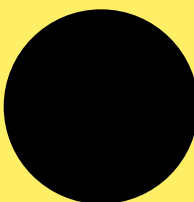


Aims of discussion chapter

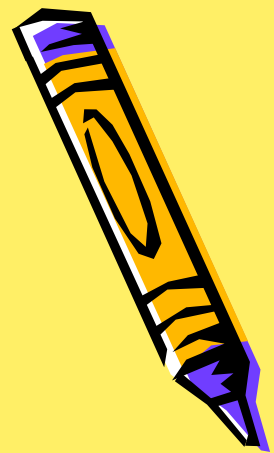


- Reflect upon how well you achieved your stated objectives
- E.g. successfully achieved objectives on measuring loneliness & demographic factors & health (except that could not achieve analysis of loneliness and income)





Aims of discussion chapter



- Discuss findings in relation to previous work (remember the lit review!)
- Were your findings same/different than previous studies
- EG prevalence of loneliness same as in studies over past 40 years. Consider & discuss implications of this





Aims of discussion chapter



- Discuss findings in relation to current policy (either local/national)
- Do they support/disagree with current policy?
- EG survey of older people reveals preference for residential nursing care. What does this mean for policy?



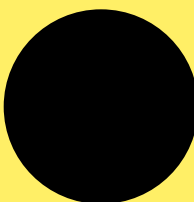


Aims of discussion chapter



- Discuss findings in relation to theoretical framework
- Do your findings fit the theoretical model?
- EG disengagement theory postulates that older people are 'detached' from society & demonstrate high rates of loneliness. Is this true of our study?





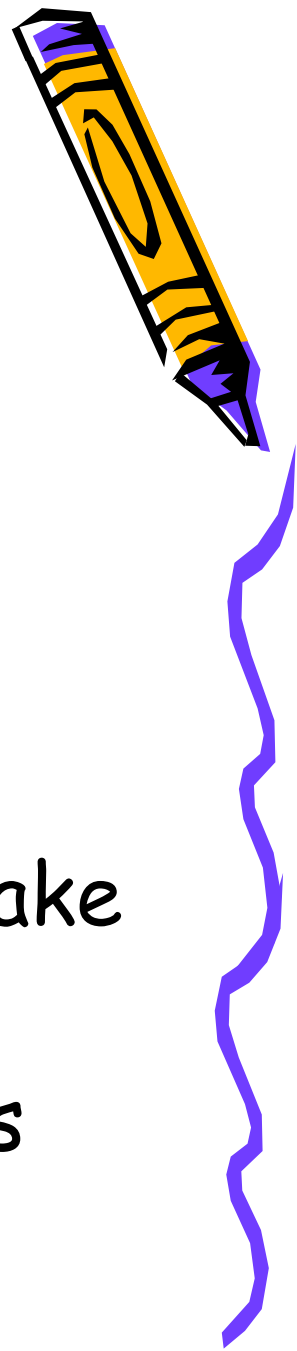
Aims of discussion chapter



- Discuss finding in relation to questions/areas raised for future research
- EG look at gender differences in older people's understanding of loneliness or class variations in understanding & conceptualisation of loneliness
- Do not over state the implications arising from your study



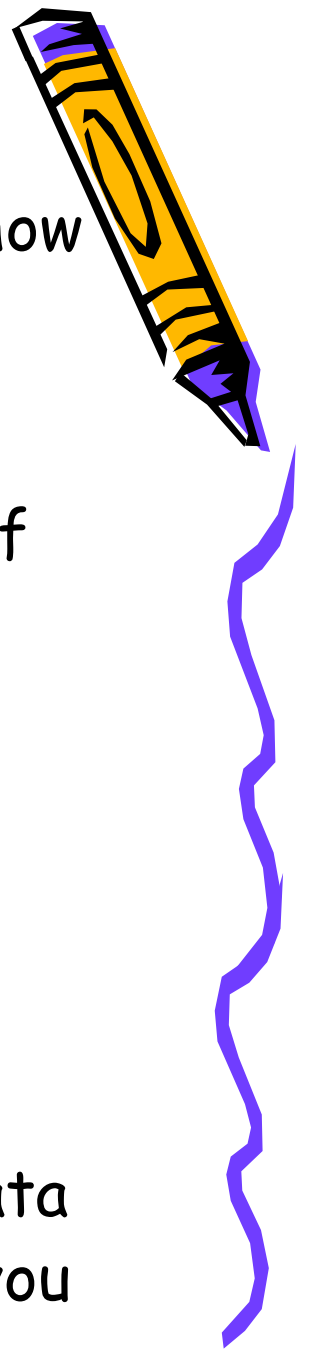
Essentials for a good dissertation



- Proof read work (allow sufficient time for this)
- Check use of English
- Ensure referencing system is consistent and accurate (we will make you correct it if it is not!)
- Ensure format meets requirements



Things to avoid



- Not clarifying why you did the lit review and how it influenced your study
- Identifying 67 studies and only reviewing 12 without giving reasons why
- No theory (or failure to justify theory used) if applicable
- Inadequate descriptions of methodology
- Unsubstantiated comments...
- Poor proof reading
- Tables without denominators
- figures without titles/axes labelled
- Duplication



Over or under analysis/interpretation of data
Stating "There are no papers on..." (unless you
are really sure!

How to write your doctoral
thesis