

Writing an exegesis

Introduction

An exegesis is a written text that accompanies a creative project. It may not follow the traditional thesis model and can be considered a new form of academic writing.

Purpose

An exegesis helps you to

- Explore and analyse relevant theories and research
- Develop your creative project

Writing an exegesis

When writing an exegesis, you may include common key chapters expected in a traditional research thesis

Content

A research exegesis may include

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Literature review
- Chapter 3: Creative practice research design
- Chapter 4: Results, analysis and discussion
- Chapter 5: Conclusion

A strong research exegesis demonstrates a line of argument that develops across your chapters and shows logical relationships between chapters. For example:

Introduction/conclusion: your introduction and conclusion must be consistent. For instance, does your conclusion address the extent to which you achieved the aims that you outlined in your introduction?

Literature review/discussion: When you discuss the outcomes of your creative project, you will draw on the theories and creative works that you addressed in the literature review

Research design/results: In these sections, you must make it clear how your research design led to your results

Skills required to write an exegesis

Creative arts skills

These are the skills specific to your discipline, such as drawing, composing or film-making.

Research skills

These include searching for relevant literature, evaluating the literature, tracking citations, using bibliographic management tools and data management.

Research communication skills

These include critiquing the literature, synthesizing the literature, using citations, visualising your data, structuring your chapters, using headings effectively and writing effectively in appropriate academic style.