

# Writing a Seminar Essay: Some Useful Guidelines and Hints

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**Abstract.** The abstract is a summary of the essay's content in at most 150 words. You may skip the abstract all together.

**Keywords:** We would like to encourage you to list your keywords in this line.

## 1 Introduction

Essay (Ausarbeitung) is a written work to the specified seminar topic. Note that your essay should not be a copy or a resume of the presented paper, but rather a result of an extended in-depth study of the topic, with additional background information, related work, information sources, evaluation, etc., carefully and consistently put together and structured in a single paper.

The essay should be organized in sections (and, optionally, in subsections).

**The work should be submitted as a pdf file.**

Here are some useful numbers (these numbers are to be understood as guidances only; in specific cases it may be reasonable to deviate from them):

- Overall length: 8 to 12 pages (without appendix) in this format
- Appendix chapter is optional, 1 to 5 pages
- Total word count: 3500 to 5000
- Number of references (Literaturquellen): 5 to 15
- Number of sections: 5-7
- Number of figures: 3-8

Further important remarks:

- Feel free to use some other templates or modify this one.
- You are strongly encouraged to favor Latex over Word for typesetting the essay.
- Start your essay with an introductory section and finish with conclusions.
- Table of contents is optional.
- Use screenshots, diagrams, and other graphics to enhance the presentation.
- Consider using tables for presenting structured contents.
- All bibliography items should actually be referenced somewhere in the text.
- Do not hesitate to use formal elements (e.g., formulae, theorems, pseudocode) whenever applicable, but remember to explain them.
- Make sure to provide enough easy-to-follow examples.
- Too long technical content (e.g., code, listings) should be put into appendix at the very end of the document.

## Examples of well-written essays from past seminars:

Below are just a few links to previously submitted essays in other seminars to convey you an overall impression of how a seminar essay may look like. These works were written under different requirements and are by no means to be understood as “perfect” and universal examples of an essay.

- <http://www.inf.uni-konstanz.de/dbis/teaching/ws0607/busintelligence/handouts/AusarbeitungSpretke.pdf>
- <http://www.inf.uni-konstanz.de/dbis/teaching/ws0607/busintelligence/handouts/AusarbeitungRohrdantz.pdf>
- [http://www.inf.uni-konstanz.de/dbis/teaching/ws0506/curation/folien\\_ausarbeitungen/tracing\\_provenance\\_DWH\\_ausarbeitung.pdf](http://www.inf.uni-konstanz.de/dbis/teaching/ws0506/curation/folien_ausarbeitungen/tracing_provenance_DWH_ausarbeitung.pdf)
- <http://www.inf.uni-konstanz.de/dbis/teaching/ss06/xmlsem/talks/cont-handout.pdf>

## 2 Remarks for Latex Users

Download `latex.zip` from the course website and extract it. You should now have a directory `lncse` containing all the files for typesetting your essay.

The main file containing a sample paper is `typeinst.tex`. You may use it directly by overwriting its content with your content.

Take a closer look at the sample paper to learn how to typeset various elements (e.g., figures, tables, code, formalisms, etc.)

## 3 Remarks for MS Word Users

Download `word.zip` from the course website and extract it. You should now have a directory `lncse` containing all the files for typesetting your essay.

The main file containing a sample paper is `typeinst.doc`. You may use it directly by overwriting its content with your content.

Make sure to format the content using the corresponding style / formatting options from the menu (available as a drop-down list in the Toolbar Format of MS Word).