

Guidelines for Introduction and Conclusion

I. Introduction:

- Present and delimit *the main topic or question* explored by your dissertation. This involves explaining both what your dissertation is about and what it is not about (i.e. containing what your reader might expect due to common associations).
- Explain *why you think this topic is worth discussing* in literary studies.
- *Define* how you will understand *the key terms* of the title and wherewith you will analyse and interpret the literary works.
- Explain why the *methodology you will use can be fruitful and well suited* to approach the literary works(s), as well as how you will attempt to keep in check or make up for *its potential limitations*.
- Give an *overview of what other people have said* on this subject before you.
- Present *your own interpretation* of the issue at stake (*thesis*), explaining its contribution to what has been said before.
- Give an *overview of your dissertation structure*, detailing the topic of each chapter, their main arguments and the connections between them.

II. Conclusion:

- Identify *the most important points* discussed in each chapter and explicitly establish *the links between them*. This should **not** be just a summary, but rather give the reader a *renewed vision of your dissertation as a whole* and what you implied by approaching the subject in the way you did.
- *Assess the strengths and limitations* of your own arguments.
- *Discuss the problems* you had while researching this topic, or what you would have liked to do in your dissertation, but could not, due to time, extension or access constraints.
- From this vantage point, try to *pose a relevant and insightful reflection, appraisal, observation, question, proposal, etc.*, which you could not have posed before writing this dissertation.