



## Feedback on exposés

### A) Feedback on content

With your exposé, you have come up with a plan of what you want to work on in your paper. This plan gives you a direction to go in; however, an exposé is not an obligation – it is perfectly normal that some things may change in the course of your work. To be able to get going, it is a good idea to get feedback on your exposé. You can ask for feedback on the following questions:

- What exactly am I planning to do? In your own words, can you sum up my plans in one sentence?
- Which research question do I want to work on? Do I test a hypothesis? Do you think my plan is specific enough? Where could I be more specific or more precise?  
Do you think this is feasible under the given conditions, or should I narrow down my topic or further specify my research question?
- Which data / method am I going to use? Can you think of anything in particular I should keep in mind?
- Which secondary literature, theories or concepts am I going to draw on? Does that make sense to you? Where should I use more or different literature / theories / concepts?
- Which questions remain unanswered for you after reading my exposé?
- Is there a part you had to read several times in order to understand it?

Make sure you start by listening to the feedback you receive without reacting to it straight away. Decide for yourself which feedback seems important to you. Together with your feedback partner, you can then decide how you can further specify or develop your research plans. What are your next steps for working on your paper?

## **B) Feedback on the text**

Both your paper and your exposé need to adhere to certain stylistic and linguistic conventions of academic writing. You can get feedback on your exposé so that you know what you need to be mindful of when you write your paper. Choose four to five of the aspects listed below based on what you think is important for your text and ask for feedback on them.

### **1. Structure:**

- What do you like about the structure of my text, and where should the content be presented in a different order?
- Which parts of the text seem long to you? Which ones seem short?
- Which other parts of the text would you have expected?
- Can you identify one central thought per paragraph? Could you please write that thought next to each paragraph?

### **2. Academic standards:**

- Which signposts do I use to guide readers through the text? Where could I include further ones?
- Which parts did you need to read more than once to figure out whose thoughts I refer to?
- Can you identify my own position towards the theories, models and research results I quote? Which one is it?
- Does my use of "I" and "we" seem appropriate, and where would you say something differently?
- Where do you notice discipline specific terminology? Do you know these terms or are there different ones?

### **5. Language and style:**

- Which sentences do you find particularly precise and conclusive? Which ones should I work on?
- Where is my text objective (no emotional expressions), where is it not? Where do I sound too general?
- Which expressions should I think about (e.g. because they are too colloquial or exaggerating)?
- Which sentences could I write more clearly (e.g. with less complex sentences)? Do you notice any grammatical mistakes?