

# Sciences-Po

- Methodology Workshop - Session 2



# The *exposé*: preliminary remarks

- What is the meaning of the question ?
- To which theoretic field it refers?
- What are the possible articulations of the problem?
- What are we expected to do?

# Putting dialectics to work

## *Thèse/Antithèse/Synthèse*

- To stress the pertinence of a proposition...
- ...while pointing to its limits...
- ...equals to relativizing it.



- Ex: Does Turkey have a place in Europe?






# Thesis

Turkey is a long-time partner of Europe...

**A-** Historical ties have contributed to integrate Turkey to the European Continent.

**B-** Europe has an strategic interest in a closer association with Turkey



# Anti-Thesis

- ...however, its integration to the EU raises serious functional issues

A-Turkey's integration raises the question of the capacity of the EU to enlarge without limits

B- Turkey's entry to the EU threatens the goal of a deeper union

## Conclusion (Synthèse)

- If there are strong ties between Turkey and Europe, an integration into the EU demands serious reforms in terms of institutions, decision-making and governance. It is highly probable that Turkey will only benefit of an association status in the medium term.



How did we get there?



# Sort out the available data

- First, you need to sort out the informations that are the more relevant for your subject
- Next, you need to select those informations that may allow you to shed light on a larger number of aspects related to the major question (problématique).

# How to sort out ideas?

- Find ideas that allow you to summarize

...other propositions you thought about

...as to define central ideas...

for your outline

# How to organize the information...?

- We've got the information already, however....
- ...we must organize it according to the main ideas of the 1st and 2d part (thesis+antithesis)
- We have to prioritize and separate key information from secondary data



# How to build an exposé

## How to structure your work

Independently of the question that will be asked of you:

- Situate the question (des relations franco allemandes à partir de l'après-guerre par ex. )
- Situate the current events related to the question
- Rank all available information according its importance
- Locate the different “keynotes”

# The Introduction

- A good introduction finds the right context for a given problem
- A good introduction is simple and clear: it announces the plan beforehand and unveils the line of thought in a precise and summarized way.
- Once again: a good introduction is a short introduction!

# The Conclusion

A good conclusion:

- Briefly recapitulates the different parts of your exposé

- Creates an opening from the problem you developed (and solved) to neighbouring subjects

- Or leads the assistance further in the reflection of subjects derived of the *problématique*.

# In between...

Some indispensable elements:

The transition

A transition sentence

Rethorical instruments at your service