

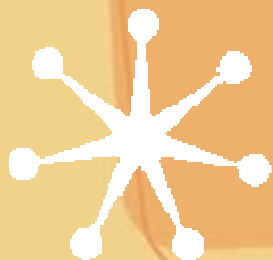


The Dissertation

Sciences-Po Methodology Workshop N4

by

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Why?

- ~ The Dissertation proves your capacity to build a written presentation in a given period of time (4h)
- ~ The Dissertation is a concentrate of all other exercises you will go through (fiche technique, exposé, commentaire de texte, etc)

A first warning: a dissertation is not an exposé:

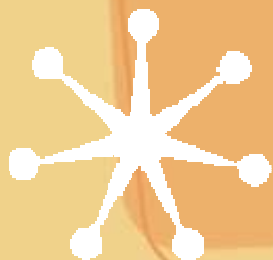
- ~ You will have to articulate the dissertation along the lines of a plan (thesis-antithesis)

But...

- ~ you are expected to develop a precise line of thought,
- ~ to argumentate and provide convincing ideas and rich examples to support your arguments



The Problématique



~ At a first glance it would seem that the dissertation demands only that:



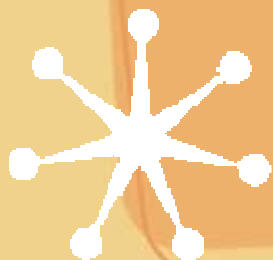
~ you display your knowledge

~ you treat it by following a logical outline

- ~ You have to “possess” your *problématique*, as to be able to provide as many insights as possible related to it
- ~ This will allow you to explain why those aspects you choose and your treatment of the question are more relevant than the others.



The Plan



In the first 30 to 45 minutes...

- ~ You already defined the problematique of the given question
- ~ You must then think of any possible ideas, examples connected to the question you defined
- ~ Throw them all into a white sheet of paper, not necessarily organizing them

- ~ Once you gather all your ideas, you will separate them in different groups, according to the different propositions you estimate to be important in relation to your problématique
- ~ See how these propositions articulate with one another, and which order is the most appropriate one.
- ~ Identify those ideas that may serve to articulate these propositions.

- ~ The plan must achieve some level of detail...since you will have to write instead of doing an oral presentation
- ~ It is also useful to do a little plan for the introduction, since it is more important in the essay than in an exposé

Sacred Rule

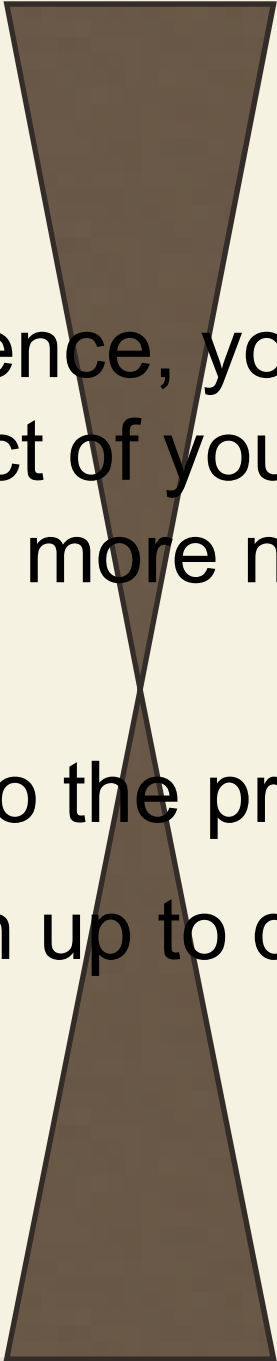
- ☞ Once you decided which plan you would adopt, don't touch it anymore!!

The Introduction

- ~ The key sentence or *phrase d'accroche* that will be used to “captivate” the reader...
- ~and let him into the essay
- ~ Even though the sentence must introduce the reader to the context, it can already stress the main “tensions” of the problématique

Where do I get my inspiration from?

- ~ Once again, get inspired by short novelists....
- ~but more specifically by the way some articles are written in scientific journals.

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- ~ After this sentence, you must introduce the very subject of your work....you must step down to a more narrow a precise level
 - ~ Then you get to the problématique
 - ~ Then you open up to describe your plan