

PONENCIAS / PAPERS

Presentation

- The student presentation should consist of a power point presentation of max. 20 min, with about 20 slides.
- The outline of the presentation should be based on the structure of the paper.

Paper

- The paper should be at maximum 10 pages
- Make sure you do not forget formal aspects of scientific writing as: title of the paper, author, table of contents, references, bibliography
- Deadline: prepared and sent to a53@tu-berlin.de before 12.3.2007

Themes

- e. g. on Safety and urban space in Mexico City

Structure

The following provides a basic outline of how you should design your research paper.

Title

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Your Research Topic | 2 – 3 pages |
| a. Introduction / Description on the topic | |
| b. Definition | |
| c. State of the arts / situation | |
| 2. Central thesis / observations | |
| 3. Literature review | 2 pages |
| a. Authors, research on this theme in Mexico | |
| b. Other relevant publications | |
| c. Summary of main thesis | |
| 4. Case study(ies) /example(s) | |
| 5. Conclusion | 2 pages |

1. Your Research Topic

Choose one of the proposed themes (e.g. safety). Then define the general phenomenon you want to analyse (for example: the role of gated communities for urban development in Mexico City). To explain the relevance of your topic you should briefly refer to the literature which has influenced your choice of subject: why is the topic important/interesting to you?

2. Central Thesis of Your Research

The central purpose of the research paper should be to describe a relatively new or not well understood phenomenon in regards to a specific context.

3. Literature Review

It will be necessary to do literature research on the subject you will be focusing on. Which authors have written about your topic – e.g. about gated communities in Mexico City? Are there any other relevant publications – e.g. about safety in the city? This background research can involve “desk research” and visiting libraries, etc. and talking to experts on the subject. Summarize the outcomes and main thesis of the existing body of research and knowledge about this topic.

4. Case Study Approach

Then define specific questions that will form the basis of your research paper.

The questions should be precisely stated so that their operational significance is clear. Here is one example of a question which is aimed at a better understanding of a phenomenon through description:

Question: What characterises the development of gated communities in Mexico City? Are these processes different from those in other cities?

You might, however, see the phenomenon of gated communities as rather well understood. Therefore you want to go more into detail and define specific hypotheses. For example, you might ask:

Question: Why are gated communities in Mexico City more socially polarising than in City B?

Hypothesis: Because XYZ

Then think about appropriate case studies/examples which can help to answer your research question. Please explain why you feel that the examples are helpful to understand your topic.

Hypothesis: XYZ

Case Study/Example: Illustration of your argument

5. Conclusion

The conclusion is not just a summary of what you have said before. You should show that the key aspects and examples you have stated fit together. So you need to synthesize. Your paper started from a general topic and ended with a specific case/example. In the conclusion you should give a meaningful outlook on the topic which might give a new perspective on the topic.