

Prof. Marlyne Sahakian, Fall 2019

Assistant emails: Rebecca Duroillet, Rebecca.Duroillet@unige.ch; Katia Vladimirova, katya.vladimirova@gmail.com

Group written report _ Guidelines

The written report is a document between 5,000 and 6,000 words (15-17 pages, double spaces, including a bibliography) and could include the following sections. This is a proposal that is meant to guide your work, you are not being held to this exact structure.

In Annexe 1, attached to this document, you will find my grading sheet for your term paper. Annexe 2, also attached, is a form that is only to be used if necessary, indicating whether a group member's work exceeded expectations of the group, or conversely if a group member did not contribute sufficiently to the paper. In Annexe 3, in a separate document, you will find guidelines for developing a bibliography.

1. **Introduction to the problem (*problématique*)** which leads to your research question: why is the topic pertinent in relation to sustainable consumption and how does it represent a form of social change? Why does it interest you? What period of time or geographic context(s) are you covering? Be mindful about not starting off with too large a research problem, you need to get to your point quite quickly.
 - a. Note that you are not being asked to come up with your own idea for a social change initiative, but rather to consider an existing initiative that fits with the theme of sustainable consumption. (approx. 10% of the text)
2. **Literature review:** what you have already found, and what remains in terms of a research gap. You can approach the review in many different ways, by theme, by date of publication (how the theme has evolved over time), geographic area, scale, etc. You can also distinguish conceptual developments from more empirical research, and policy-relevant findings. (approx. 20% of the text)
 - a. Note that we will be checking to see if you engaged with references that were provided as part of course work.
3. **Research plan:** approach and methods (approx. 15%): What is your main research question and sub-questions? How does this relate to a conceptual framework that we studied in the first part of class (understanding consumption, understanding social change and innovation: practice theories, transition theories, behavioural theories, etc.) What is your methodological approach in relation to the question(s): how will you answer them, with what tools (secondary research? a specific form of analysis?) What can you *not* achieve in the scope of a term paper, what is beyond the scope of your study?
 - a. Note that our main objective for this paper is that you engage with a conceptual framework in answering your question. We will be checking to see if you 1) asked a question and 2) answered it using a conceptual framework. And also, that you are engaging with references we covered in class.

4. **Analysis** (approx. 45%): draw from existing material you have found in class, online, in the academic literature, through exploratory interviews, etc. to either explore different types of initiatives and discuss them using a conceptual framework; or focus on one or two case studies that you discuss in more depth; or imagine the future implications of your theme, based on your analysis... this can take many different forms, depending on your research question.
5. **Conclusion**: summarize how you have addressed your research problem and answered your questions, the main points you are making, and what remains to be explored in further research. (approx. 10%).
6. **Bibliography**: chose any format you like, as long as you are consistent (see for example Annexe 3, available on Moodle; other resources for bibliographies are available online). Please distinguish academic references from online sources (webpages) or reports.

Annexe 1:

Evaluation of term paper

Title :

Students :

✓✓: excellent ✓: good ok : sufficient ×: insufficient

Content Descriptive quality (clear research problem and questions) Pertinent and feasible research questions Critical and analytical value Clear understanding of concepts Application of concepts to analysis Pertinent conclusions	
Form Organization of the content Graphical or visual supports Clarity and fluidity of the language	
Bibliography Complete and coherent Distinguishes types of references	

Annexe 2:

Evaluation of team members

Title:

Students:

Student(s) that performed above the expectations of the group:

Name(s):

Short description by the other team members (why and in what way?):

Student(s) that performed below the expectations of the group or did not contribute sufficiently to the term paper:

Name(s):

Short description by the other team members (why and in what way?):

Names/signatures of students submitting this report: