WRITING YOUR GRADUATE THESIS

BASIC ELEMENTS OF A THESIS

- **Hypothesis**: what is the problem and what do you see as the solution?
- **Literature Review**: what have others learned about the problem?
- **Methodology**: What did you do towards finding a solution?
- **Results**: What did you observe?
- **Conclusion/Discussion**: What do you make of this?
- **Summary**: Can you repeat that in a nutshell?
- **References**
- **Appendices**

THESIS WRITING PHASE

- Extend and modify the proposal
- Prepare the Table of Contents: headings and key terms
- Follow the order that works best for you
- Provide both captions and explanations for table and figures
- Edit the hard copy

FORMAT FOR THE CONCORDIA THESIS

- Consult the regulations and guidelines for thesis preparation at the School of Graduate Studies website site:
  - Thesis Preparation and Thesis Examination Regulations
    [http://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/concordia/offices/sgs/docs/handbooks/thesispreparationguide.pdf](http://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/concordia/offices/sgs/docs/handbooks/thesispreparationguide.pdf)

A FEW TIPS FOR YOUR WRITING PHASE

- Provide an introduction that…
  - Summarizes the question (problem)
  - Explains why the study is worthwhile
  - Provides an overview of the main results
  - Outlines your thesis
- Provide a thorough discussion of your results
- Support claims
- Keep your conclusions concise, and maintain correct, clear and simple language.
- Use headings and sub-headings that clearly indicate content
- Include all references

SUGGESTED STYLE GUIDES

- K.L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations
- MLA Handbook for Writers of Research papers (2016)
- Publication Manual for Psychology (APA)
- Style guide for Chemists
- AIP Style Manual for Physicists
- A Manual for Authors of Mathematical Papers
- IEEE for Engineers