Writing to prompts

- *What writing for your thesis have you done, and what would you like to do [in the long, medium and short term]?

- 5 minutes’ writing
- In sentences
- Private writing -- no one will read it
- To be discussed in pairs/groups
Why a ‘page 98 paper’? And when?

- Early: to establish direction/focus
- Associate & dissociate with literature
- Build on research question/hypothesis
- Focus reading/thinking
- Manageable writing task: 325 words
- To develop thinking and/or for thesis?
- Late: to focus thinking/intro conclusions
Writing a page-98 paper

- My research question is … (50 words)
- Researchers who have looked at this subject are … (50 words)
- They argue that … (25 words)
- Debate centres on the issue of … (25 words)
- There is work to be done on … (25 words)
- My research is closest to that of X in that … (50 words)
- My contribution will be … (50 words)
Make your ‘contribution’ explicit

- ‘This research shows/reveals/confirms’
- ‘This is a contribution in the sense that …’
- ‘This is a contribution to the extent that …’
Internalising the debate

- ‘Some will argue that …’
- ‘One interpretation could be …’
- ‘However, this could be taken as …’
- ‘This is not to say that …’
- ‘Possible interpretations include …’
Brown’s 8 questions

1. Who are intended readers? (3-5 names)
2. What did you do? (50 words)
3. Why did you do it? (50 words)
4. What happened? (50 words)
5. What do results mean in theory? (50 words)
6. What do results mean in practice? (50 words)
7. What is the key benefit for readers (25 words)
8. What remains unresolved? (no word limit)
Brown’s 8 questions

- To draft an abstract
- Not just for experimental work
- Set word limits
- Using generic structure
- Generating text you can work on later
- Write abstract first, revise it as you go
- Construct/see the whole argument


Other readings
