**Master Thesis Workshop**

**When:** 4.semester master students  
**Goal:** Get an overview of the thesis, and start writing   
**Scope:** two hours every week for five weeks   
**Activities:** And-But-Therefore, textual analysis, microwriting, argumentation, peer feedback, revision, group discussions, reflection.  
**Developed:** pilot at the MN-faculty, spring 2020  
**By:** Åsmund H. Eikenes, MN-faculty, UiO

**The Workshops**

The woirkshops consist of five sessions of two hours, where participands work with their own master thesis through discussions, writing assignments, peer feedback and reflections.

**Learning outcome**

After having participated at the Master Thesis Workshops you can:

* Present the topic, research question, structure and results of your own master thesis
* Plan and use relevant tools during the writing process
* Reflect on your skills as a master student

**Content**

**Session 1: Overview of the master thesis**

Before:  
Find two previosly sumbitter master theses that are relevant to your field and project. Tal to your supervisor and make a plan for the time until sumbission. Try to lower your shoulders.

Plan for the session:

* Introduction
* Writing time (And - But - Therefore)
* Group discussion
* Writing Time (PostITs to structure the thesis
* Group discussion
* Reflections about writing
* Summary

**Session 2: Writing the introduction**

Before:   
Read three to five paragraphs in the introduction of two published master theses. Try to notice words and phrases that function as guides through the text (for example: recently, previous research, however, in this study").

Plan for the session:

* Group discussion (discoveries from reading)
* Writing time
* Discussion about the writing process
* Writing time (peer feedback and revision)
* Summary

**Session 3: Writing theory/methods**

Before:  
Read three to five paragraphs in the theory/methods-section of two published master theses. Try to notice what characterizes this part of the text, such as balance between text, formulas and figures, and how the content is related to the topic of the thesis.

Plan for the session:

* Group discussion (discoveries from reading)
* Writing time
* Discussion about the writing process
* Writing time (peer feedback and revision)
* Summary

**Session 4: Writing the results**

Before:   
Read three to five paragraphs in the results-section of two published master theses. Try to notice what characterizes the text when the author describes the results, such as the coupling between text and figures or phrases that connect a problem with a method and a result.

Plan for the session:

* Group discussion (discoveries from reading)
* Writing time
* Discussion about the writing process
* Writing time (peer feedback and revision)
* Summary

**Session 5: Writing the discussion**

Forarbeid:   
Read three to five paragraphs in the discussion-section of two published master theses. Try to notice the structure of the arguments when the author discusses relevance, strengths and weaknesses of the work, such as links between references and results, or links between the introduction and the discussion.

Plan for the session:

* Group discussion (discoveries from reading)
* Writing time
* Discussion about the writing process
* Writing time (peer feedback and revision)
* Summary and plan for the future
* Good luck!

**Literature**

Schimel, J. (2012). *Writing science : How to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The book is a concise and clear introduction to academic writing, and provides a structure for revision of first drafts. The author is a professor in microbiology, and the examples are from the life sciences.