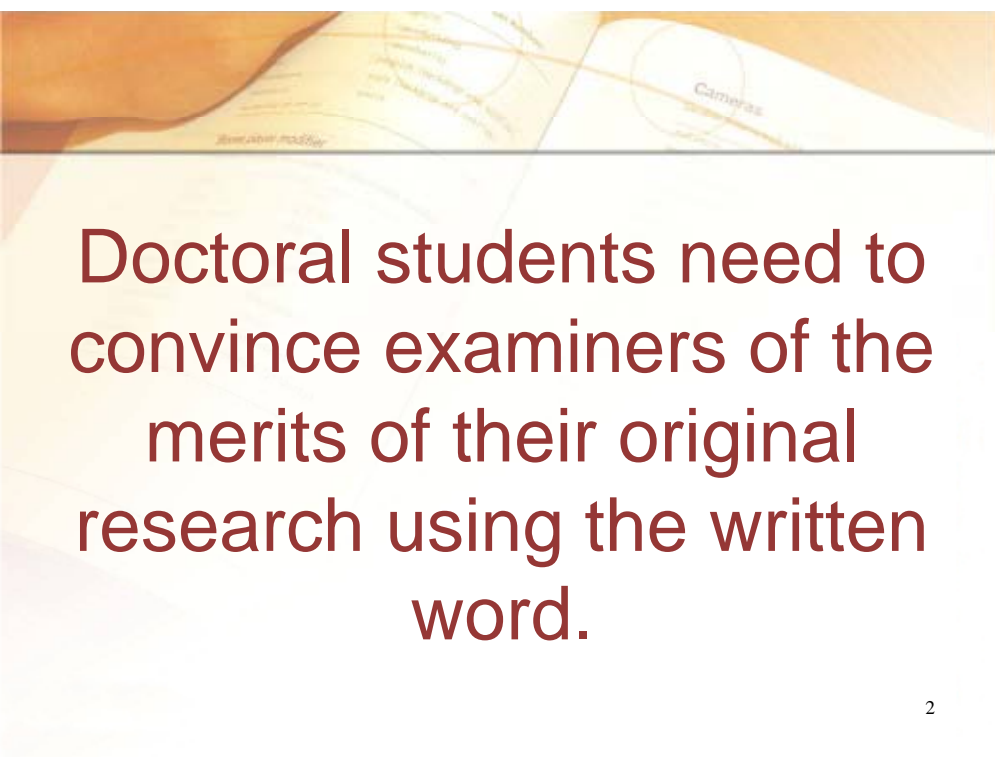


The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of an open book. The pages are yellowed with age. On the right page, there is a diagram of a camera lens with the word "Camera" written next to it. On the left page, there is a diagram of a mechanical part with the text "Illustrative model" visible. The overall tone is warm and academic.

Structuring a Thesis



Doctoral students need to
convince examiners of the
merits of their original
research using the written
word.

Effective Academic Writers:

- **Organize their thoughts & chapters**
- **Present them logically to a reader**
- **Express ideas clearly**
- **Engage their reader's interest**

Main Parts of a Thesis

Introduction

Literature Review

Methodology

Results

Analysis/Discussion

Conclusions/Limitations/Further Research/Summary

Introduction

Problem

Research Q's

Methodology
(overview)

Significance

Structure/Layout

Body

Literature Review

Methodology

Results

Analysis/Discussion

Conclusion

Conclusions

Limitations

Future Research

Organization of EACH chapter

- **Introduction – purpose of chapter**
- **Layout/Organization**
- **Summary at end**
- **Preview of next chapter**

Purpose of Sections

- Introduction:
 - overview of the problem
 - research questions
 - overview of methodology
 - main contribution
 - explanation of the structure of the thesis

Literature Review

- research issues related to the problem
- gaps identified in the literature
- analysis of theory related to the problem

Research Design

Research Design explains the Methodology:

- detailed research questions
- data gathering approach
- data analysis approach
- possibly reliability & validity
- replication (for others to repeat)

Findings and Results

Findings and Results:

- report of data
- some discussion is possible
- sample calculations only (appendices)
- summary of key results

Discussion

- Summary of data
- Examination of findings and linked to the theory
- What the results mean
- What was learnt from the results

Diagrams

Effective diagrams
enhance understanding

Conclusion

- Related to objectives
- Contribution to research
- Limitations to the study
- Future studies
- Limitations
- Summary

Abstract

- Written last
- Summarizes the problem, approach, results, and conclusions
- A structured abstract corresponds to the main sections of the thesis