How to Structure a Masters Thesis

Q: What is the main motivation of your work?

Q: What is your main research question?

A: Your claims

**Identify Your Why**
- Your thesis structure centers around why you did your work. What are the key research questions that guided your research process?
- Once you have a research question, explain the goal for your research through a claim.
- A claim directly answers these research questions by stating the most significant contribution(s) or lesson(s) of your work.

**Gather Your Evidence**
- Once you have your claims, you should support them with a claim-evidence-reasoning (CER) structure.
- Evidence for your claim can take the form of notes, results, slides, derivations, method explanations, and figures.
- The evidence will be used to support the claims you've identified in your thesis.

**Arrange Your Evidence**
- Identify thematic bins that correspond to your claims for each piece of evidence.
- These claims can be structured in many ways. E.g., there can be a higher-level broad claim that is supported by several lower-level claims.
- Tie your claims to the main claim with reasoning.

**Convert to Chapters**
- Break your claims down into chapters based on the amount of evidence you have to support the claims.
- All masters theses contain an Introduction, Literature Review, and Conclusion which sandwich your claims.

View more information on this topic or make an appointment at the Comm Lab!