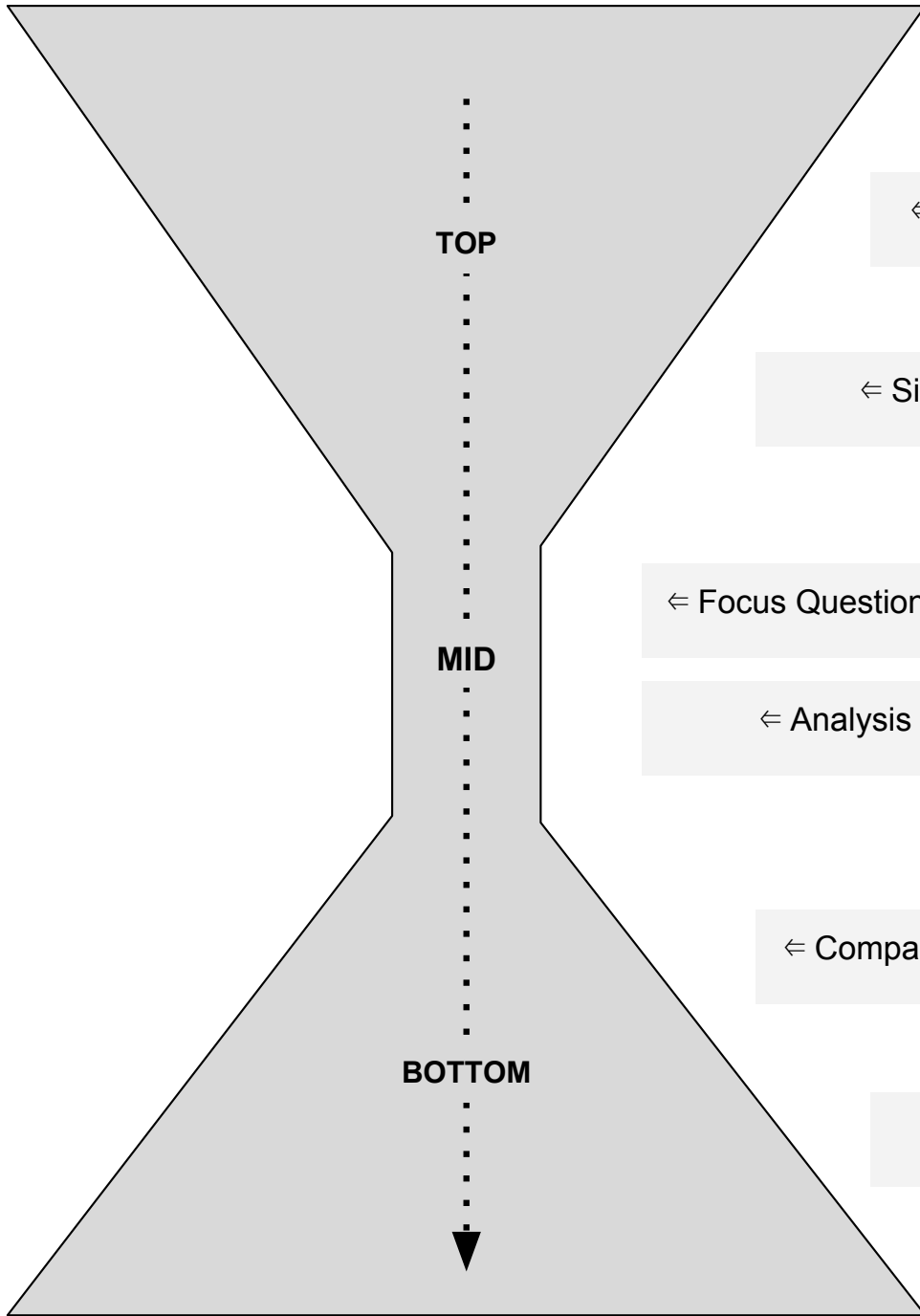


Situated Research & the Hourglass

ENVS Program | Fall 2017



⇐ Background | Framing Question | Thesis Statement

⇐ Situated Context | Key Actors/Processes

⇐ Focus Question | Methodology

⇐ Analysis | Results

⇐ Comparison & Generalization | ~ Framing Question

⇐ Next Steps | Further Research

Empirical
Research

Situated Context

Topic

ENVS Situated Research Rubric—Fall 2017
Enter scores for each component, then add up at bottom
See hourglass diagram on opposite site for clarification
Questions? Email envs@lclark.edu

Hourglass	Component	Elements Required for Full Credit	Score (1-5)*
Top	Background Framing Question Thesis Statement	Comprehensive, relevant, readable background to research topic, building on and weaving together related scholarly and popular discussions; introduction and justification of broad, significant, understandable framing question(s) emanating from this background; and clear, argumentative thesis statement building on this background and summarizing entire hourglass process below, offering provisional answer to focus question(s) and important perspective on framing question(s).	
Top	Situated Context Key Actors/Processes	Clear and compelling introduction (with map) of geographical context(s) for research on topic, including vertical (general type) and lateral (comparative) justification; broad overview (including text and concept map) clarifying, and specifying relations between, key actors/processes in chosen context(s), and their potential relevance to topic and framing question(s).	
Middle	Focus Question Methodology	Clear summary and justification of empirical research focus question(s) to be answered for topic in situated context(s), including relevance to framing question(s) and doability in given context(s); step by step summary of each methodological element by which focus question(s) to be answered, with justification (including related studies) of each methodological element as well as data sources, ethical concerns if applicable, and other considerations.	
Middle	Analysis Results	Step by step procedure of analysis as above methodology implemented, including changes in response to research challenges; specific results, in narrative, chart, and table format as appropriate, obtained from analysis of each methodological element, with clear and direct reference to how these results answer focus question(s).	
Bottom	Comparison & Generalization ~ Framing Question	Clear and defensible broadening of results, starting with summary for focus question(s) in given context(s), then (lateral) comparison to other (similar or different) situated contexts based on existing literature and/or reasoned guess, as well as (vertical) generalization of possible larger patterns relevant to topic; clear and provocative application of specific results and larger comparison/generalization to shed fresh and important light on topic framing question(s).	
Bottom	Next Steps Further Research	Understandable and compelling application of entire hourglass argument above to derive next steps for consideration or action on chosen topic, including practical/policy options, potentially with reference—but not limited—to chosen situated context(s); clear and doable recommendations for further research building on (or perhaps deviating from) this situated research project.	
*Scoring: 5 = All elements; 4 = Many elements; 3 = Some elements; 2 = Fewer elements; 1 = Very few elements			Total Score (out of 30):