What Goes into a BA Thesis?

BA Components

INTRODUCTION
The introduction lays out your research problem. What is the research question or set of questions you are asking? Why is the problem interesting, significant? You will outline your problem and how your thesis will address the problem i.e. outline of the structure of the paper to follow.

CONTEXT/BACKGROUND/HISTORY OF RESEARCH PROBLEM/LITERATURE REVIEW
While you give a brief summary of your research problem in the introduction, you can give a more detailed description of the issue in this section. It may give a brief history of the phenomenon you are looking at, introduce the set of actors/factors that influence the phenomenon. If your thesis is about a physical site, this section can give some more details about the site – only as much a reader needs to know with respect to your research questions.

What has already been written about the problem you are addressing in the discipline from which you are approaching the problem? How are you drawing on, adding to or correcting the existing body of knowledge? What is the debate? Where is the gap? What is your intervention? The point is not to have read everything that has ever been written on your topic. You should show that you are aware of the significant, large academic debates in this area; that you have engaged with relevant concepts that have been developed pertaining to your research topic.

METHODOLOGY
Will you be using qualitative or quantitative data? For example, will you rely on open-ended interviews, discourse analysis of texts or regression analysis? What comprises your data set? Tell your reader why the method you have selected is the most appropriate approach. And justify the sample size you use.

ANALYSIS
This is the most significant part of your thesis. This will substantiate the argument you are making through your quantitative or qualitative analysis. This is the place to systematically make your claims, and provide reasons and illustrations for your claims.

CONCLUSION
You will sum up your argument for your readers. You will remind the reader what you set out to prove and how you proved it, why the findings are significant. You can also raise further issues/questions that readers of your thesis can take up, which were beyond the scope of your study.