

THESIS - (1) A written research paper. (2) As part of their examination for promotion in the International Kenpo Karate Association, students are required, at different levels of their progress, to compose and write a thesis and/or create a FORM of their own. Mr. Parker's concept of writing a thesis and creating a FORM is designed to help students develop individual creativity. In fulfilling this requirement, they are compelled to think, therefore, students are required to analyze each and every effort they make to become critical of themselves and strive for self-perfection. Through self-analyzation and their quest for perfection, they learn to be individualists who can function independently. In a real crisis, their independence will allow them to remain cool, steadfast, and quick while making decisions which will ultimately lead to victory.

WRITTEN THESIS

Students may choose the subject matter for their written thesis. It can be on any subject related to the Martial Arts. On rare occasions, Mr. Parker will select a subject related to their skill, profession or hobby if he feels it will benefit all members of the Association. If a specific subject is selected, students will be notified in ample time so that they can complete their thesis prior to the deadline.

If the students cannot decide upon a topic, or in the event that they have an array of topics which they would like to choose from, but are having difficulty making a decision, they are to consult with their instructor for his recommendation. His suggestions are important in any case.

Each student's educational background will be considered in evaluating their written thesis. Therefore, more will be expected of them if they have higher academic credentials. All students, however, will be required to follow the format outlined in the following paragraphs.

The following information serves as a guide in the presentation of their required written thesis. It is their responsibility to organize and develop their thesis in the foregoing manner. Suggestions are not given in terms of their writing, but only on how to present their facts.

FORMAT – Their thesis shall consist of three main parts. The following must be adhered to:

1. PRELIMINARY PAGES

- (a) TITLE PAGE (followed by a black page). This page should include:
 - (1) The name of the studio along with its branch name directly under it. (Both should be centered at the top of the page.)
 - (2) The exact title of the thesis.
 - (3) The belt promotion it is for.
 - (4) The date.
 - (5) Their name as the author – all suitably capitalized, centered, and spaced upon the page.
- (b) PREFACE AND/OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – Included in the preface (or forward) should be their reasons for picking their topic; for making the study; the background, scope, and references; an acknowledgement to those who have aided them in the process of their research. If they think they have nothing significant to say about their thesis, and wish to acknowledge the assistance they have received, they should entitle their remarks: "Acknowledgements" instead of "Preface".
- (c) TABLE OF CONTENTS – This is basically an outline setting forth the major divisions of the thesis: the introduction, the chapters, the glossary, the appendix, and the bibliography, with their respective page numbers.

2. THE TEXT shall consist of an:

- (a) INTRODUCTION – It should lead into the main body of the paper.
- (b) THE MAIN BODY of the paper. This is the actual meat of the thesis. Should the thesis be lengthy, divisions, such as chapters or their equivalent should be used to divide the text. Each chapter should have a title and begin on a new page.

3. REFERENCE MATERIAL SHOULD CONSIST OF:

- (a) A BIBLIOGRAPHY – The bibliography is a listing of all of the sources used in writing of the thesis. Just those relevant to the subject should be listed.
- (b) A GLOSSARY – The glossary should list all specialized terminology utilized in the thesis, in alphabetical order, with their accompanying definitions.
- (c) AN APPENDIX – The appendix should contain all supplementary information pertinent to the formation of the thesis but would be inappropriate elsewhere. This might include how a model was con, or the method or means of acquiring certain information, etc.

THESIS ABTRACT

Each student testing for Third Degree Brown Belt shall be required to present an abstract of the thesis they intend to write for First Degree Black Belt. This abstract is a brief, one or two page, statement about their proposed thesis and should include:

1. Verification of the approval of their topic by their instructor. It is important that their subject matter be a worthy one, one that is sufficient in depth, and one they are capable of completing.
2. A tentative title for their thesis.
3. On or two paragraphs highlighting the proposed subject, and an explanation of how they intend to cover their subject in greater depth.
4. A paragraph explaining why they have chosen this topic.
5. A list of their intended sources of information.

Their Thesis Abstract must be presented to their instructor at least two weeks prior to testing. This will allow time for him to approve it form and content and allow the student time to make revisions. The final Abstract must be presented by their instructor to Mr. Parker prior to their test with sufficient time for Mr. Parker to read and approve it.

THE FINAL THESIS

The primary goal of all members of the International Kenpo Karate Association should be to learn Mr. Parkers system. A vital part of Kenpo's education process involves sharing one's own knowledge, perspectives, and insights; thus, each individual contributes to the overall development of our system. One means of achieving this goal is through the student's Black Belt Thesis.

The final thesis for First Degree Black Belt candidates should be concise, accurate, and to the point. Although there is no minimum length required, their topic should be of sufficient depth to require several type-written pages. Each written thesis **MUST BE COMPLETED** and presented to the candidate's instructor at least two weeks prior to testing. This will allow time for the instructor to approve its form and content and allow the student time to make revisions. The final thesis must then be presented by the instructor to Mr. Parker prior to the test and with sufficient time for Mr. Parker to read and approve it. This will enable Mr. Parker to question or comment on it during the exam.