

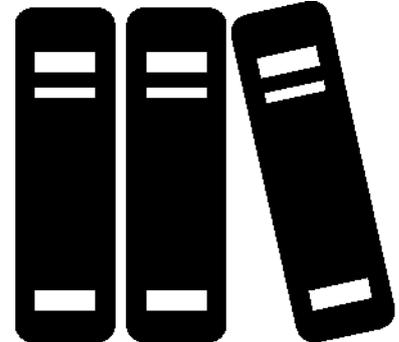
# A guide to dissertation structure

## What is a typical dissertation structure?

The dissertation is the final demonstration of the design, execution, and interpretation of any planned research project.

A dissertation allows students to:

- Demonstrate that the plan for the research was carefully completed
- Explain how the findings were gathered and why
- Support the discussion, implications and conclusion of the research.



## Why should dissertation structure be important to me?

It is important to structure and plan your dissertation carefully in order to guarantee that your arguments and observations are coherent and detailed and follow the flow of the work.

It should take the reader from the beginning of the project process to the end and should be clear to the reader how you have come to the conclusions within your writing. Completing a sound dissertation helps students to acquire the basic research skills necessary to function as a researcher but also proves to tutors and potential employers that the student can:

- Plan time carefully
- Work to a deadline
- Carry out self-motivated and independent work
- Follow and adapt plans
- Problem solve
- Communicate effectively in written form.

## What type of structure is most common?

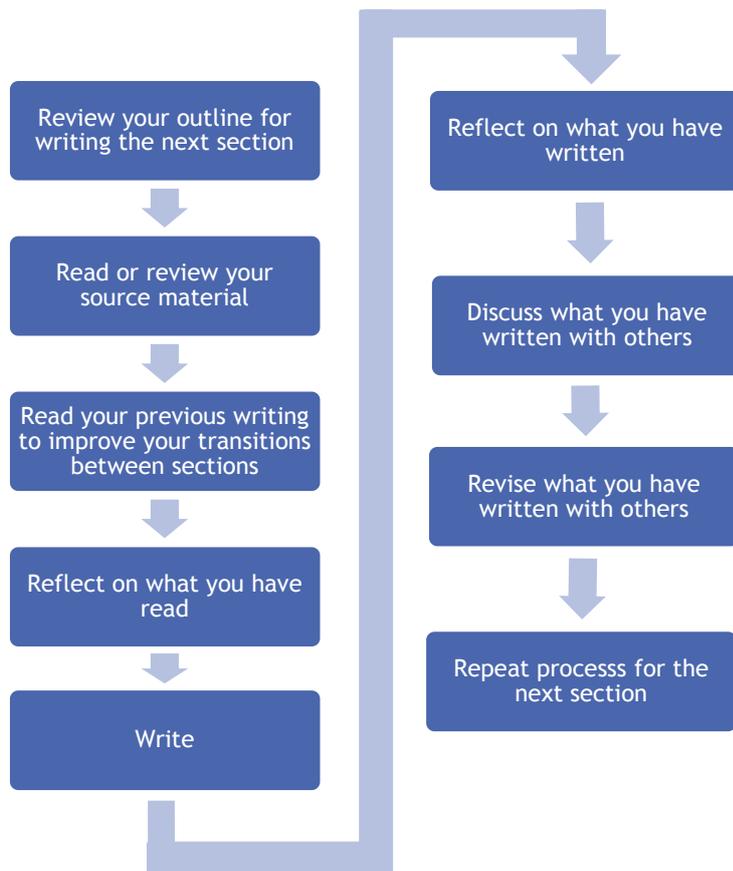
The dissertation includes the following components:

- Title page
- Dedication (optional)
- Acknowledgements (optional)
- Table of contents
- List of Tables
- List of Figures
- Biography
- Abstract
- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Review of the Literature
- Chapter 3: Methodology
- Chapter 4: Findings
- Chapter 5: Discussion
- References

## Tips to Plan a successful dissertation

- Create and follow a specific plan for conducting your research, including the process for completing and organizing the dissertation, with input from your tutor/supervisor
- Use a checklist to arrange and monitor your tasks
- Work on your dissertation over time, adjusting the schedule for completing your tasks and writing specific sections of the dissertation according to your daily life and wellbeing.
- Set realistic goals with input from your tutor, work towards dates for completing your tasks and writing specific sections of the dissertation
- Select a dissertation topic that is interesting to you- **remember** it has to keep you interested over a long time.

## What does an effective process for writing look like?



## References

Developed from original works by:

Sampson, James P. Jr., 2012. *A Guide to Quantitative and Qualitative Dissertation Research*.  
[Online] Available at: [http://diginole.lib.fsu.edu/edpsy\\_faculty\\_publications/1/](http://diginole.lib.fsu.edu/edpsy_faculty_publications/1/). [Accessed  
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