

Upgrade Study Advice

The structure of a dissertation (1) The 'science' model

Your research question:

This will become your title

?

Introduction

- The context / issue / problem
- Research territory - overview
- Specific research area – focus on methods of other research in the area
- The gap in existing research – and justification for your research
- Aim

Literature review

- 1 What is known already ie the research literature in fields related to your question
- 2 How it is known (ie look for methods)
 - organised by topic / research areas
 - See *Referencing; Research*

Methods

What you did

Why you did it the way you did

Results / findings from your primary research

Explain what you found. Think about how best to communicate it: eg

- charts / tables
- quoted comments
- boxed mini case studies
- diagrams/ flowcharts

and always text to explain

Discussion

How what you found relates to the aims of your project, and the literature you read.

Critical assessment of your methods (how what you did may have affected outcomes, what improvements to suggest)

Conclusions – take-away points from your research

Implications . . . and suggestions for future research

Appendix

working tools (eg questionnaire)

raw data (eg summary tables)

And finally

A summary of all this in 200-300 (max) words, roughly in this order, for your abstract