

Upgrade Study Advice

The structure of a dissertation (2) The 'social 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

Findings AND discussion organised by theme

You move directly from presenting your findings to discussing how they compare with other research findings. Your section headings reflect the topics in each.
(See Model 1 for how to display your findings)

Theme 1

Theme 2

Theme 3

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