

Chapter 1 : Surviving the Dissertation: Tips from Someone Who Mostly Has | GradHacker

Writing a dissertation requires a student to think deeply, to organize technical discussion, to muster arguments that will convince other scientists, and to follow rules for rigorous, formal presentation of the arguments and discussion.

You have your best throughout your postgraduate studies. You completed multiple projects, did well on the exams, and attended more courses than you can remember. Although this entire process was supposed to get you ready for the PhD dissertation, you still feel insecure. All PhD candidates are facing the same trouble. Fortunately, dissertation services are there to help. You can hire professional dissertation writers online. They will follow your instructions and help you complete the project you envision. The only question is: We follow the instructions of our customers to the tiniest detail. They get constant updates throughout the process of completion, and they can ask for improvements along the way. This is the dissertation writing service that will set you up for success. Many services deliver plagiarized papers or miss deadlines. This website is different. Feel free to check our policies; they are transparent! We provide strong guarantees that ensure your safety and satisfaction. These are only few of the features that make us the best custom dissertation agency on the web: Each dissertation is absolutely unique. No rewriting or paraphrasing; just unique content with proper references. The writer will format the dissertation or thesis according to your instructions. They will follow the standards of your university to make sure your project meets the expectations of your mentor and PhD committee. We will never resell or publish your custom dissertation. We give you a guarantee for timely delivery. We understand that the deadline is crucial! You need to have something to show when you arrange a consultation with your mentor. The revisions are free at our website! Every PhD student can order a project at our website. We hired PhD experts from all disciplines. We make it easy for you to get your professional dissertation through few simple steps: Before placing the order, we recommend you to check the policies of our service and read the terms and conditions. Make sure to pick the right service. Do you need a dissertation proposal, a separate chapter, or a complete PhD paper? If you have any resources you would like the author to use, feel free to upload them. For any help during the ordering process, you can contact our customer support agents. You can ask for frequent updates and submit more instructions. Are you ready to hire the top academic writing service on the web? Now that you found the website of one of the best thesis writing services out there, you just need to place the order and start working with an expert. Feel free to ask for the dissertation draft at any step of the way. The author will send you updates as they make progress through the order. Thanks to our service, no dissertation topic can be too challenging for you.

Chapter 2 : UK Dissertation – The Finest Dissertation Writing Service!

Lack of writing skills. The dissertation paper should follow the strict rules of academic writing. You should write in proper form, style, and language; and you should make sure to implement the correct citation guidelines.

Not only does it provide an overview of the rest of the work, but it sets the tone and creates the first impression a reader has with your work. Even if the rest of the dissertation is flawlessly written and brilliantly argued, a subpar introduction can subvert the whole effort. Mastering the elements of a well written introduction clarity, succinctness, cogence, and adhering strictly to the topic at hand will set you on the right track and serve you well as you develop the subsequent sections of the dissertation. Craft a proper title. Technically, this is distinct from the introduction, but the title is an introduction in and of itself. Poorly written titles have the same effect as poorly written introductions: Above all, make sure your title is specific. Concretely describe the focus of your research. If your title is so generic that it could just as easily be applied to a dozen other papers in the field, change it. Early film, its spectator, and the avant-garde. The thesis statement argues, explains, or analyzes something. With few exceptions, it should appear in the first paragraph of the introduction. You want to make clear to the reader as soon as possible what this paper is all about. As with titles, the number one rule is be specific. Stylistic and verbal flair does enhance the quality of the prose, but it is secondary to, and often gets in the way of, clarity. Your first job is to get the point across. Usually, the best way to say something is the simplest. Minimize background information Probably half of the dissertations or theses that I edit are guilty of this infraction: A little bit goes a long way. Orient the reader within the field and familiarize him with the problem addressed by your research, but keep the focus narrowly drawn. Cut out tangential information, that which is only minimally, indirectly relevant to the subject at hand. Some recent history is usually edifying but, as a general rule, the farther back you go, the less relevant it is. This experience has also made him a specialist in APA formatting, which is another service he offers to graduate students who are writing theses, dissertations, or capstone projects.

Chapter 3 : How to Write a Dissertation (with Pictures) - wikiHow

2. Writing a dissertation is not only new, it's also a very large, very independent project. Writing a dissertation is a lot like writing a book. It is, by definition, a self-directed process.

Just fill in some details of your source and your citation and reference list are generated automatically. This can be a recent news item or something that has always interested you. By choosing an interesting example, the reader is immediately encouraged to read the rest of your introduction. Scope Based on the motivation or problem indication, you describe the topic of your dissertation. Make sure that you directly define the topic of your research. Theoretical and practical relevance of the research Using arguments, state the scientific relevance of your research. Also, highlight here the discussion chapters of studies that you are going to use for your own research. Next, explain the practical use of your research. They often have a completely different view of your topic. When you are writing a dissertation for a company, you will find that the scientific relevance is much more difficult to demonstrate. On the other hand, it should be easier to show the practical benefit. To answer the problem statement, you can use research questions. These are sometimes also called sub-questions. The basis of the hypotheses is the conceptual framework. However, sometimes you are not yet able to formulate hypotheses, because you are first going to conduct a literature review. Brief description of the research design Later in your research, you develop the research design in detail. However, in the introduction you also provide a brief summary of your research design. How , where, when and with whom are you going to conduct your research? Dissertation outline Here, you briefly describe how your dissertation is constructed. Summarize each chapter briefly in one paragraph at the most, but preferably in one sentence. Make sure your dissertation outline is not repetitively phrased because it does not vary its word choice. The further you get in your research, the easier it will be to write a good introduction that is to the point. Take up the introduction again at a later time and keep writing and editing until you arrive at a nice whole. Background information is written in the simple past tense or present perfect tense. Length of the dissertation introduction There are no specific requirements with regard to the length of your introduction. But you do need to write to the point. Introduction The introduction of the research is written with a stimulating topic. The topic is limited. The scientific relevance is demonstrated not applicable to all theses. The practical relevance is demonstrated. The most important scientific articles about the topic are summarized not applicable to all theses. The objective is formulated. The problem statement is formulated. The conceptual framework is determined. The dissertation overview is added. Is this article helpful?

Chapter 4 : How to write an Introduction for a Dissertation

Writing dissertation abstracts: online writing gurus to the rescue. Writing a dissertation abstract, our experts make a short summary of your dissertation in order to present the entire work to the potential reader. An abstract is written to let the reader understand from the very beginning, whether or not it is the material he/she is looking for.

Save this discount code: However, the long journey that they have to undergo for reaching their target is really tiresome. To complete such higher academic degree, the major project, which is to be completed, is dissertation paper. It is quite hard to accomplish a dissertation writing assignment on your own. Never allow the tension to disturb your mind because we have created our team to offer you dissertation writing services. Our dissertation help gives you the guarantee of success. When our dissertation writing services are most helpful? If we write for you to complete the paper, then you can see that we have used more innovative things to it. With our experience, we sustain the quality level of every paper. Our dissertation writing is never lifeless, and it may also please your tutor instantly. Our dissertation writers are completely prepared to help you dedicatedly with the best custom dissertation. Our custom dissertation writers do all those boring tasks for your relaxation. All dissertation writers at our site will get the right resources, do analysis and give dissertation help within the proper time. Our dissertation writers never stop their work by simply writing your tailored paper; they take much time to review or edit it. We know that it seems to be quite essential to revise any paper, particularly the extensive one. Obviously, a custom dissertation is also such paper, which needs proper revision. We know that if we have made any mistake in our dissertation writing services, then it may lower the marks of students. So, we always employ multiple dissertation writers for every dissertation help that we offer. Our custom dissertation writers ensure that all the expectations are met with the highest quality. The price for our writing services The charge that we take for our dissertation help depends on the deadlines and length of the paper. When you want a paper to get completely written very fast, you can send all details. We also offer discounts for our dissertation help, and thus, any new client does not fear to approach for our dissertation writing services. So, contact our custom dissertation writers to start your project.

Chapter 5 : 12 Habits To Reclaim Your Life When Writing A Dissertation

When you're writing a dissertation, one of the most difficult intellectual tasks a person can do, commitment to the writing process is far more important than genius. If the smartest person in the world cannot learn to write, then she won't be a successful academic.

Dear Kerry Ann, Do you have any suggestions for motivating graduate students to meet their dissertation-writing deadlines? I want them to finish their dissertations, but now another semester has gone by with missed deadlines and no concrete progress. And that means that May graduations look increasingly unrealistic. Are there any structures or tools I can put in place to help them move toward completion? Sincerely, Frustrated Adviser Dear Frustrated, I understand how difficult it can be to want your graduate students to succeed but not know how to support their productivity. Having just spent the past 12 weeks working with dissertation writers, I know one thing for sure: Advisers imagine that delays are due to the content of the project, while graduate students are most often struggling with writing and resistance. For a wide range of reasons, the hardest thing for doctoral students to do is the one thing that will actually lead to a completed dissertation: Instead, procrastination, perfectionism and isolation drive students to spend their time doing everything but writing. And unlike seminar papers, a dissertation cannot be binge written in a few days. That is important to understand and take seriously, because the conversations you are likely having with your students about the content of the work are not getting to the core problem: Let me suggest that you gather together your doctoral students for an explicit conversation. It is important that you nonjudgmentally communicate three things. Then I suggest using the following questions to get real with them about breaking their cycle of dissertation avoidance. What Is a Dissertation? That may seem like a simple question, but I can assure you that the perfectionist-fueled expectations of many graduate students often differ significantly from the actual expectations of their committee members. When I ask graduate students what a dissertation is and if they have ever read one particularly one that has recently passed in their department , the response is often complete confusion. Your students no matter how smart they are, how sophisticated their research skills are or how excellent their course work is have never written a dissertation. What that means is that they do not know how to write a dissertation, and they may have unrealistic expectations about its required scope and quality -- expectations that are keeping them from moving forward. Keep in mind that your students have spent several years in classes learning how to criticize the best work in your discipline. The most effective form of direct guidance is a dissertation rubric. And I recommend that you have references to a few well-written dissertations in your recent departmental history that they can read as examples of a finished product. This emerges from a combination of past binge-and-bust writing habits, the flawed assumption that nothing can get done in 30 minutes a day, and the idea that they must have everything figured out before they start writing. In addition to a judgment-free discussion of their writing habits, you may also want to speak directly to the topics of perfectionism and procrastination. Graduate students appreciate knowing that even academics who are well published continue to experience perfectionism and procrastination. Because the natural isolation that graduate students experience is exacerbated when they get to the dissertation-writing stage. This is when they need more, not less, support. But the type of support that is most useful is that which holds them accountable for writing every day and producing drafts. I am not recommending that you become their accountability buddy. They have prioritized all of the work that had built-in accountability -- teaching, service, research tasks for their adviser and job applications -- to the exclusion of the one activity that will lead to their completion of the dissertation: They have done this because all those other activities had external deadlines that day, while their dissertation could be pushed off until tomorrow, Thanksgiving break, Christmas break, summer, next year etc. This is a great time to ask what type of accountability structure would help your students to prioritize at least 30 minutes of daily dissertation writing above all the other things clamoring for their attention. Colleges and universities are increasingly offering writing space for dissertation writers, writing retreats, dissertation coaching and writing workshops. And even if your campus does not offer such services, plenty of online dissertation-writing communities can provide supportive accountability for your students to write every day.

Ultimately, I want you, as an adviser, to be able to get your students producing work so that you can have the substantive conversations about their dissertation research that you would like to have, and are distinctly positioned to have, with them. But before any of that can occur, they have to put words on a page.

Writing the Dissertation Introduction Chapter. By David Henderson, APA editor and dissertation writing consultant. Mastering the elements of a well-written introduction, and adhering strictly to the topic at hand, will set you on the right track as you develop the subsequent sections of the dissertation.

Share via Email Stick to your outline and pay attention to details. You need not necessarily start at the beginning in fact, introductions are often easier to write at the end when you know how your argument has developed. Your style of writing is crucial to communicating your ideas effectively. A well-planned and researched dissertation can be let down by poorly expressed ideas or unclear phrasing. Allowing plenty of time for writing will avoid this. Be prepared to work through two or three drafts, refining your work each time, before you are happy with the end result. Finding your style During your research you will have read a number of scholarly articles. Select a recommended academic text that you find easy and enjoyable to read. Study the structures and work out how arguments are presented. Collect good examples of vocabulary and punctuation. Consider how techniques used by the author convince the reader of their argument and see if you can apply them in your own writing. In an essay of this length, sub-headings are a useful way of breaking up the text and signalling to the reader what stage you have reached. Tweak these sub-headings as you move through each draft to ensure they still provide a useful overview of the section. Look out for any words or phrases that have already been stated or implied elsewhere in the sentence and cut them out. Reading your work aloud will help you spot clumsy sentence structure. Structuring sentences As you write your essay, it is worth distinguishing the key points in your discussion from less important supporting ideas. Aim to give full weight to your key points by giving them each a sentence of their own. Elaborations and detail can be added in subsequent sentences. It is a common mistake to think that the longer the sentence, the cleverer it sounds. It is important to remember that every word conveys a unit of meaning on its own, however small, so the more words there are in a sentence, the harder it will be for the reader to grasp the meaning within it. Instead of adding on clauses, introduce the next point in a new sentence. Connective words and phrases however, consequently, but, so can be placed at the start of the new sentence if necessary, to indicate its relationship to the previous one and make your work flow. Acknowledging ideas Although your dissertation should contain your own original thought, you will also want to refer to the ideas of other writers on the topic. Your dissertation should critically evaluate those ideas and identify what problems remain in your area of research and what has not yet been explored. You can also use the work of others as evidence to back up your own argument when doing this, ensure you add a footnote to signpost clearly to the reader the original source of the point you are making. Perfect your bibliography Make sure you have a sufficient number of references to books, articles and sources you have used check with your tutor what is expected. Some should be primary sources, which means non-academic material such as newspapers, interviews, cave paintings, train timetables, statistics. You will also quote secondary sources, which are usually academic articles that analyse primary sources. Your academic department will tell you which one they use, and you will need to follow instructions to the letter. How to edit your dissertation. Thanks to Goldsmiths University for supplying this content, which has been designed to be dyslexia-friendly.

Chapter 7 : Dissertation Writing Services from Expert PhD Writers

GUIDELINES. FOR WRITING A THESIS OR DISSERTATION. CONTENTS: Guidelines for Writing a Thesis or Dissertation, Linda Childers Hon, Ph.D. Outline for Empirical Master's Theses, Kurt Kent, Ph.D.

My committee consisted of three very busy professors and it was next to impossible to find a date and time when they were all available. After my 45 minutes presentation at this meeting a heated debate ensued among my committee members regarding the interpretation of my data. After a long discussion, my committee agreed to give me the green light to defend my thesis. Unfortunately, the only date when they were all available to attend my thesis defense was less than three weeks away 20 days to be exact. In other words, I had only 20 days to complete the writing of a page thesis and prepare 50 slides for my thesis defense. In addition to health problems such as back pain and tension headaches, this poor lifestyle led to low quality work. Instead of isolating myself from the world and abusing my body for 20 days, I decided to focus on producing a high thesis. I realized that the best way to keep myself focused and motivated for the following three weeks was to prioritize my health and get support from my community. I already knew from past experience that lack of sleep, poor nutrition, and isolation actually interfered with my ability to write and think creatively. What did I have to lose by taking a different approach? If you are writing your dissertation and you feel overwhelmed by the amount of work that needs to be completed by the deadline. If you feel compelled to neglect your health and your personal relationships. If this is happening to you, I would like to encourage you to consider an alternative and more empowering approach. Many students need to juggle family commitments, jobs, and social activities that suck time away from their thesis. It might seem like you have no choice but to cut down on your sleep or exercise in order to meet your deadline. During the time I was writing my thesis I also had to attend to commitments outside my studies. There did not seem to be enough hours in the day to complete everything. By restructuring my day and using the productivity-enhancing strategies that I will show you below I was able to meet my ambitious deadline and write a thesis that led to three first-author publications. Put email and social media on the back-burner Digital communication has become an incredibly significant time and energy sink in the last two decades. In fact, you are creating more work for yourself because when you reply to an email, the other person will respond and create even more work for you. Make your research and dissertation writing a priority during your work day. Email and social media will be there waiting for you, after you have completed your most important tasks for your day. Break down your long-term goals into short-term milestones One of the challenges that graduate students face is that their deadlines are so far in the future months that they are not sure what they need to do during a particular week in order to be on track with their thesis. In fact, they might feel so overwhelmed by the magnitude of the project and of the long-term deadlines that they put off making progress on it. As the deadline gets closer they start working unreasonably long hours to catch up, leading to extreme exhaustion and low quality work. Use this timeline to determine whether you are on track, and if not, adjust your plan accordingly. Shift your mindset from what you have to do to what you want to accomplish If your life is being dictated by a to-do list, you will always be trying to catch up with a never-ending list of errands and feel exhausted at the end of the day. If you have a to-do list already, take a look at it. How many items on it are supporting your personal and professional goals? If you want to complete a high quality dissertation and live a full life, delete these items from your list, because they are just eating up your time – a limited resource that you can never get back. Identify in advance the three most important results you would like to achieve each day Once you have short-term milestones, and you are clear on what you want to accomplish, decide which three accomplishments would be the most important to complete by the end of the day. To increase your chances of success, identify these three goals the day before, and visualize that you have already completed them. You might not be able to achieve all three goals, but having a clear picture of where you want to be at the end of the day, will significantly boost your chances of success. Structure your day so that it is in alignment with your productivity cycle When I plan my days, I group my desired results into two categories: I am most productive in the morning, and I start my day by taking actions to achieve the major results for my day, and I leave phone calls and shopping for the afternoon.

Focus on one task at a time The idea that multi-tasking makes us more efficient is a myth. Your brain can only focus on task at a time. When you think you are multi-tasking answering emails while working on your dissertation , your brain is actually switching back and forth between the two different tasks. The result of multitasking is that your performance on both tasks is reduced and you will feel exhausted from the effort of the continuously switching back and forth. You can multitask to a certain extent e. Give your creative mind a chance We all need breaks, but one of the big mistakes that students make is to check email during their time-off. Did you ever notice that some of your most creative ideas come to you when you are not at your desk? The reason is that there is a part of your brain called the Default Network, which turns on when you are not actively focusing on a problem. The Default Network of your brain helps you to develop creative solutions and see problems from a new perspective. It becomes engaged when you are away from your work. The Default Network becomes active when you are exercising or strolling. Suddenly you might see your problem from a new angle and develop insightful solutions that had never occurred to you before. Unfortunately, the Default Network is most likely turned off when you are glued to your computer. If you want to give your creative mind a chance, you need to develop a regular break schedule even if for just 15 minutes at a time. Always be ready to use short fragments of time to make progress on your dissertation During the 20 days that I had to finish my thesis there was not a moment to waste. I also had family commitments to manage and meetings to attend, and I did not always have long stretches of time to write. Sometimes I just had free minutes between commitments, but I was always ready to take action, no matter how small, to make progress. You might be surprised at how much you can accomplish in such a short amount of time. Carry around a notebook and pen at all times As the deadline for your dissertation comes closer, you will inevitably spend a good portion of your waking hours thinking about it. You always need to be ready to capture creative ideas that will either strengthen the arguments in your thesis or help you take shortcuts to finish your dissertation sooner. Bring your notebook and pen with you everywhere to collect all your ideas, especially since your most creative thoughts will probably occur when you are not at your desk. You can also keep this notebook next to you while you are writing – this way you can jot down any errands that pop into your head, so you can attend to them after you complete your writing rather than feeling compelled to attend to them right away. Have you heard of Moleskine notebooks? A Moleskine is a must have by PhD students. Be proactive in negotiating the requirements for your graduation with your supervisor Does your supervisor keep raising the standards, so that no matter how much you do, it is never enough? If you feel trapped under a never-ending list of demands, get support from other committee members or your department chair, to clarify exactly what you need to do in order to be allowed to complete your dissertation. While conflicts with your supervisor can be very frustrating , keep all emotions out of your discussions. During your meetings focus only on the problem and not on your emotions anger, frustrations due to the problem. If your supervisor critiques your work, do not take it personally. Use harsh criticism constructively to develop mutually beneficial solutions for you and your supervisor, and to improve the quality of your research and dissertation. What about taking care of yourself during the mundane workdays when you make little or no progress? If you can schedule daily exercise into your routine, it will boost your productivity and self-confidence immensely. Realistically, I know that if you are working full-time, have a family, and trying to write your dissertation, there might not be enough hours in the day to make it to the gym. At the minimum, take a 20 minute stroll, or get your heart-rate up with a jump-rope it only takes 5 minutes! Also be sure to keep your pantry full with nutritious foods. I know how hard it is to resist chips and ice-cream at night – it is best to just toss them or not buy them in the first place so they are not in your environment. Finally, nurture your mind by surrounding yourself with positive people. A supportive community either formally through your university, or informally through your friends can give you the emotional stamina you need to make it through the last few weeks or months of your dissertation writing. In summary, remember that being productive is not just about rearranging your schedule so that you have the most number of hours to work on your dissertation. Managing your energy, so that you can stay focused and creative during your work hours, is actually the most crucial component of your productivity. Do you want to be better at Academic Writing? Do you have trouble writing your PhD thesis? She knows exactly where you are struggling with your academic writing. With this course you will be able to: All the academic

writing know-how you could image delivered via video in easy to follow modules. Supporting materials to create tables and figures, because an article is not just text. The response from everyone has been incredible. This is the course I wish I had followed at the beginning of my PhD.

Chapter 8 : How to write your dissertation | Education | The Guardian

The introduction is the first chapter of your dissertation and thus is the starting point of your dissertation. You describe the topic of your dissertation, formulate the problem statement and write an overview of your dissertation.

Dissertation Writing Service Academized: The Best Dissertation Writing Service Online For many college students, your dissertation is the most important piece of academic writing you will have done on your entire course. It is most definitely the difference between passing with a merit or a distinction and can even be the major difference between passing your course or failing it. So they bring in an expert. Academized is that expert. We offer the best dissertation writing service available. Our dissertation writing service can ensure that you get the mark you need to move onto a university or to be the newest hire in the career you want. Use Our Reputable Dissertation Writing Service Writing a dissertation is no easy task - which is why so many students come to Academized. Like all assignments, your dissertation requires research, planning and of course, completion. You will need an introduction including your thesis. You will then need to prove that thesis using expert testimony to back up your ideas. Then comes the part where you present the evidence that disagrees with your theory and explain why it has been made irrelevant. Next comes editing at least two revisions. And finally your abstract. No wonder you are looking into our dissertation assistance service! Dissertation writing service by Academized is rated 4. Want your voice to count in? Send us your review with all the details. Check prices Try Our Custom Dissertation Writing Service If you read through that last part in horror, then perhaps it is time for you to seriously consider our dissertation writing services. Our dissertation service can take away all of the pain from this. You will receive a custom written dissertation direct to your inbox as per your instructions. You can provide a thesis which our top rated expert writers will work from, or you can let them generate a reliable thesis for you one that will help you to reach the top marks bracket and bring your grade average soaring up. Our writers will not only provide a ready-to-go dissertation, they will use their words to bring the idea to life, leaving your professors in no doubt as to the validity of your thesis a skill that only legit writers truly possess. Best Dissertation Services Our recommended dissertation services are second to none. You only need to look at our dissertation writing reviews to see the truth of that statement. We even offer discounts to new customers too. We offer a round the clock support service if you have any questions about placing your order or about our site in general. Our dedicated customer services team are waiting to take your call or chat to you via the messaging facility on our website. Once you are assigned a writer, you can even message your writer directly through our onsite messaging service. We pride ourselves on offering good value for money every time. Our service is inexpensive when you consider everything you get for your money an expert writer, an expert researcher, an expert editor and an expert proof reader. All of these people work tirelessly to hit your deadline and produce a dissertation that you will love. These changes will be actioned at no further cost to you. No matter how late you leave your order, we can help you we can have an urgent order completed and sent within six hours, although we do recommend that you place your order as soon as possible the longer you allow our writers to work on your dissertation, the lower the price you will pay. We can also help college students with their other papers whether at an undergraduate or graduate level. It just makes sense!

Chapter 9 : How to help doctoral students complete their dissertations (essay)

Your style of writing is crucial to communicating your ideas effectively. A well-planned and researched dissertation can be let down by poorly expressed ideas or unclear phrasing. Allowing plenty.

Each section or chapter has its own particular function

Title page The title itself is an important opportunity to tell the potential reader what your research is about. You will need it to be succinct, specific, descriptive, and representative of the research you have done. There is likely to be a required format for the title page in your discipline, so you need to check what that is.

Abstract This may be one of the shortest sections of your thesis or dissertation, but it is worthwhile taking great care to write it well. Essentially, the Abstract is a succinct summary of the research. It should be able to stand alone in representing why and how you did what you did, and what the results and implications are. It is often only one page long, and there may be a word limit to adhere to. The Abstract is an important element of the thesis, and will become a document in its own right if the thesis is registered within any database. The examiners will therefore assess your Abstract both as part of your thesis, and as a potentially independent document. It can be best to write the Abstract last, once you are sure what exactly you are summarising. Alternatively it can be useful to write the abstract earlier on, as an aid to identifying the crucial main thread of your research, its purpose, and its findings, which could then guide the structure of the dissertation. It might be useful to look at how others have managed. It is certainly an academic exercise, but perhaps not too different from the concise explanations of your research you may have had to give to relatives and neighbours over the last few years, in terms of its brevity, accessibility, and comprehensiveness.

Acknowledgements This is your opportunity to mention individuals who have been particularly helpful. Reading the acknowledgements in other dissertations in your field will give you an idea of the ways in which different kinds of help have been appreciated and mentioned.

Contents, and figure and table lists The contents pages will show up the structure of the dissertation. This is a useful check on whether amalgamation of sections, or creation of further sections or sub-sections is needed.

Introduction Although this is the first piece of writing the reader comes to, it is often best to leave its preparation to last as, until then, you will not be absolutely sure what you are introducing. The introduction has two main roles: The literature review, or context of the study

The purpose of this chapter is to show that you are aware of where your own piece of research fits into the overall context of research in your field. To do this you need to: This can lead logically into a clear statement of the research question s or problem s you will be addressing. In addition to the research context, there may be other relevant contexts to present for example: It can be difficult to identify the best order for sections in this chapter because the rationale for your choice of specific research question can be complicated, and there may be several inter-linked reasons why the research is needed. It is worth taking time to develop a logical structure as this will help to convince examiners of the relevance of your research, and that you understand its relevance. It will also provide you with a framework to refer back to in your discussion chapter, when you reflect on the extent to which your research has achieved what it set out to do.

Chapter s describing methods, sources, material etc In these chapters a straightforward description is required of how you conducted the research. If you used particular equipment, processes, or materials, you will need to be clear and precise in how you describe them. You must give enough detail for another researcher to replicate your study. For example a scientific dissertation would probably have very clear separation between the results and the discussion of those results; whereas a social science dissertation might have an overall chapter called Findings, bringing the results and their discussion together. Decisions about style of presentation may need to be made about, for example:

Discussion This is where you review your own research in relation to the wider context in which it is located. You can refer back to the rationale that you gave for your research in the literature review, and discuss what your own research has added in this context. It is important to show that you appreciate the limitations of your research, and how these may affect the validity or usefulness of your findings. Given the acknowledged limitations, you can report on the implications of your findings for theory, research, and practice.

Conclusions This chapter tends to be much shorter than the Discussion.

References This section needs to be highly structured, and needs to include all of

your references in the required referencing style. As you edit and rewrite your dissertation you will probably gain and lose references that you had in earlier versions. It is important therefore to check that all the references in your reference list are actually referenced within the text; and that all the references that appear in the text appear also in the reference list.

Appendices You need to check whether or not the appendices count within the word limit for your dissertation. Items that can usefully go in the appendices are those that a reader would want to see, but which would take up too much space and disrupt the flow if placed within the main text. Again, make sure you reference the Appendices within the main text where necessary.

Designing your detailed structure If your dissertation is well-structured, easy to follow, logical, and coherent, your examiners will probably enjoy reading it, and will be able to listen to your argument without the distraction of trying to make all the links themselves. The only way to achieve a consistent argument throughout a piece of writing is by creating some kind of plan or map of what you want to say. It can be useful to think of the research question or topic going like a strong thread throughout the dissertation: Moving from doing the research to writing a comprehensive account of it is not necessarily easy. It can be helpful to break the task down into smaller, more easily accomplished elements. The process of producing your writing plan could go as follows. You could start by making a comprehensive and unstructured list of all the elements and ideas that you need to include, ranging from chapter headings to notes about analysis, and from ideas for graphical representation to ideas for further research. Alternatively you could choose to start at stage 2. List the main chapter headings in the order in which they will appear. Under each chapter heading, list a series of important sub-headings. It may be that, for example, a literature review chapter needs to be split into a review of several different segments of literature. In this case each segment can have its own sub-heading, with a synthesis that brings the findings together at the end of the chapter. Under each sub-heading, list the main content that needs to be included, creating sub-sub-headings if needed. If you began by making a long and unstructured list of content, you can now feed that into the developing structure by inserting it as bullet points under the relevant headings. You need to ensure that all the content you want to include has been allocated a place. As you go, you can slot in ideas, references, quotes, clarifications, and conclusions as they occur to you, to make sure they are not forgotten. Take feedback from others at this stage, before you begin to fill in the detail.

Filling in the detail It can be a good idea to put the word limit to the back of your mind at this point, and concentrate on getting everything recorded in a document. You can always edit upwards or downwards later as necessary.

Writing as you go along It is likely, and advisable, that you will not wait until the end of your research before starting to write it up. You may be required to produce one or more chapters for assessment part way through your research. The process described above can be used for any individual chapter you are working on. It is important to be prepared to critique and revise your own work several times. Even the early chapters submitted for assessment, and passing that assessment, may need to be revised later on. This is not a failure, but a positive sign of increased experience and skill.

Developing an argument An important aspect running through your dissertation will be your argument for: You will refer to the work of others as you make your argument. This may involve critiquing the work of established leaders in the field. Agree with, accede to, defend, or confirm a particular point of view. Propose a new point of view. Concede that an existing point of view has certain merits but that it needs to be qualified in certain important respects. Reformulate an existing point of view or statement of it, such that the new version makes a better explanation. Develop an existing point of view, perhaps by utilising it on larger or more complex datasets, or apply a theory to a new context.

Adapted from Taylor You should be open about where the gaps are in your research, and cautious about over-stating what you have found. Aim to be modest but realistic in relating your own research to the broader context.

Improving the structure and content Once you have the dissertation in draft form it becomes easier to see where you can improve it. To make it easier to read you can use clear signposting at the beginning of chapters, and write links between sections to show how they relate to each other. Another technique to improve academic writing style is to ensure that each individual paragraph justifies its inclusion. More ideas will be presented in the Study Guide

The art of editing. You may choose to review your draft from the standpoint of a dissertation examiner, which might involve preparing a list of questions that you want to see answered, then reading through your dissertation scribbling comments, suggestions, criticisms, and ideas in

the margin. If you have a marking guide then apply it to your dissertation and see if there are aspects that you can improve. While you do this, be aware of whether you need to increase the number of words, or decrease it to reach your target. As you read you can then cross through material that appears unnecessary, and mark points that could be expanded. This will then form the basis for your next, improved, draft. When to stop Just as it can be difficult to begin writing, it can also be difficult to know when to stop. You may begin to feel that your dissertation will never be good enough, and that you need to revise it again and again. It may be helpful to divert your attention for a while to the finishing off activities you need to attend to: Coming back afresh to look critically at the main text may then enable you to complete it to your satisfaction. Remember the dissertation needs to demonstrate your ability to undertake and report research rather than to answer every question on a topic. It is important to allow yourself enough time for the final checking and proof reading of the finished document. Summary Devote time to planning the structure of the dissertation. Plan a structure that will enable you to present your argument effectively. Fill in the detail, concentrating on getting everything recorded rather than sticking to the word limit at this stage. Regard writing as part of the research process, not an after-thought. Expect to edit and re-edit your material several times as it moves towards its final form. Leave time to check and proofread thoroughly. A guide to better writing for scientists, engineers and students.