



Writing Graduation Project

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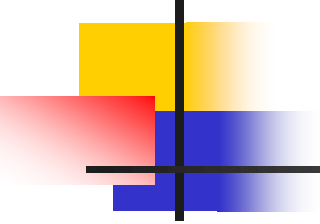
“The research is going well, so the writing should be straightforward - I can leave it until later”.

“I know I’m not good at writing so I keep putting it off”.

Writing Bad
Habits

“I know I’m good at writing so I can leave it to later”.

“I want to get everything sorted out in my mind before I start writing or I’ll just end up wasting my time re-writing”.

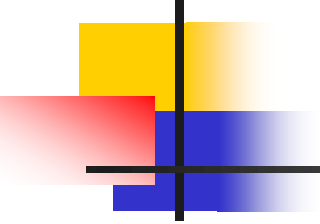


Ignoring the further learning and clarification of argument that usually occurs during the writing

Different perspectives lead to potential problems

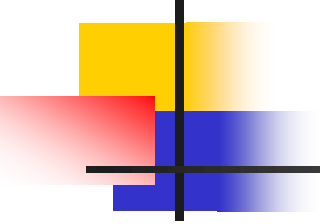
Leaving too little time for effective editing and final proofing.

Regarding re-drafting as a failure or a waste of time;



"think of your report as part of your investigation, not as a duty to be undertaken when your work is otherwise complete"

Barras (1993:136)



The kind of content appropriate
to place in the appendices
rather than in the main text

**Check out what
is required**

The marking
scheme or guidance

The word limit:
maximum and minimum



The structure

Title page	
Abstract	
Acknowledgements	
Contents pages	
Introduction	
Materials and methods	Literature review
Results	Sources and methods
Discussion	Findings
Conclusions	
References	
Appendices	



Title page

- The title itself is an important opportunity to tell the potential reader what your research is about.
- 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.
- Essentially, the Abstract is a succinct summary of the research.
- It is often only one page long, and there may be a word limit to adhere to.



Abstract

- It can be best to write the Abstract last, once you are sure what exactly you are summarising.
- Attending to the very restrictive word limit.
- In terms of its briefness, 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

The introduction has two main roles:

- to expand the material summarised in the abstract, and
- to signpost the content of the rest of the dissertation.



The literature review, or context of the study

To do this you need to:

- describe the current state of research in your defined area;
- consider whether there are any closely related areas that you also need to refer to;
- identify a gap where you argue that further research is needed; and
- explain how you plan to attend to that particular research gap.



Results / Findings

a scientific dissertation would probably have very clear separation between the results and the discussion of those results



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.



Discussion

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.

It is not a mere 'summary' of your research, but needs to be 'conclusions' as to the main points that have emerged and what they mean for your field.

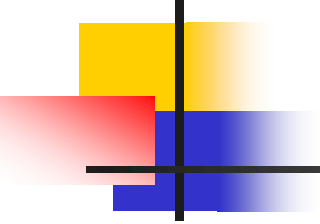


References

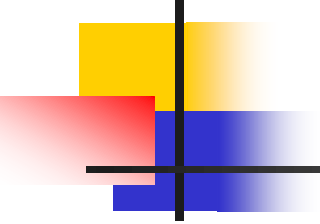
This section needs to be highly structured, and needs to include all of your references in the required referencing style.

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.



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.



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.



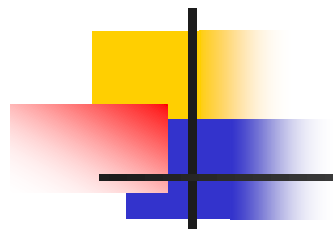
Summary

- ▪ 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.



References

- Barrass R. (1979) Scientists must write. A guide to better writing for scientists, engineers and students. London:Chapman and Hall.
- Taylor G. (1989) The Student's Writing Guide for the Arts and Social Sciences. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



Thanks