

A thesis or dissertation is a document submitted in support of candidature for an academic degree or professional qualification presenting the author's research.

Structure of a dissertation

- 1- Title page
- 2- Acknowledgements
- 3- Abstract (Summary)
- 4- Table of Contents
- 5- List of Tables
- 6- List of Figures
- 7- List of Appendices
- 8- Chapter 1 - Introduction
- 9- Chapter 2 - Literature review
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- 13- References
- 14- Appendices
- 15- Abstract in Kurdish and Arabic languages

1- Title page

The title page is the front page and therefore the eye catcher of your dissertation.

- i. The title should be neither too long nor too short;
- ii. It should be focused and interesting;
- iii. It should include the keywords you might use to describe your work;
- iv. Try to use some verbs rather than a long list of nouns.

Information page

Information about your supervisors, information about yourself (name, student administration number and email address) and information about your educational program. Finally, end this page with the date on which the dissertation is submitted.

2- Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements should be include:

- Supervisor's assistance

- Faculty staff (University, College and Department);
- All those who have helped you with ideas, technical assistance, materials;
- Family and friends.

3- Abstract

It should state

- The problem in a general manner;
- The problem in a specific manner;
- The main objectives of the work;
- The main methods or tools used;
- The main results and conclusions.

How not write an abstract

- Do not refer extensively to other works;
- Do not add information not contained in the original work;
- Do not define terms.

Answers to these questions should be found in the abstract:

- What did you do?
- Why did you do it? What question were you trying to answer?
- How did you do it? State methods.
- What did you learn? State major results.
- Why does it matter? Point out at least one significant implication.

4- Table of Contents

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Abstract in Arabic	a

5- List of Figures

List page numbers of all figures.

The list should include a short title for each figure but not the whole caption.

6- List of Tables

List page numbers of all tables.

The list should include a short title for each table but not the whole caption.

7- Introduction

The introduction chapter of your thesis is to one which you provide all of the basic information that the reader will need to understand the report which is to follow. Such things as the background of your research,

- How you came to research your topic,
- What your topic is and how it relates to the world around it, and
- What kind of general principles and methodology you will be using to research your topic and evaluate your hypothesis.

Tell the reader the aims and objectives of the study. Give the reader a sense of how the thesis will be organized. Provide some kind of chapter by chapter breakdown to tell the reader what can be expected so that the reader will be able to scan the report at first and have a good sense of what ended up happening.

Note: An introduction must not be so detailed that it includes everything you want to say. Remember that you are introducing an idea or topic, your structure of the essay, and your thesis statement.

8- Literature Review

A Literature review is a survey and discussion of the literature in a given area of study. It is a concise overview of what has been studied, argued, and established about a topic, and it is usually organized chronologically or thematically.

Within each section of a literature review, it is important to discuss how the research relates to other studies (how is it similar or different, what other

studies have been done) as well as to demonstrate how it relates to your own work.

The literature you identify must be read, summarized, discussed and analyzed, not just listed.

9- Questions a Literature Review should answer

- * Are there any gaps in the research? Are there areas that haven't been looked at closely yet, but which should be? Are there new ways of looking at the topic?
- * Are there improved methodologies for researching this subject?
- * What future directions should research in this subject take?
- * How will your research build on or depart from current and previous research on the topic? What contribution will your research make to the field?

10- Source of the literature review

- * Journals. The most important source
- * Books –classic in the field
- * Conferences-often from the supervisor(s)
- * Standards, laws, etc.

11- Methods

What belongs in the “methods” section of a scientific paper?

1. Information to allow the reader to assess the believability of your results.
2. Description of your materials, procedure, theory., equipment
3. Calculation, technique, procedure, equipment and calibration plots.
4. Limitations, assumptions and range of validity.

The methods section should answer the following questions:

- 1- Could another researcher accurately find and reoccupy the sampling stations or track lines?
- 2- Is there enough information provided about any instruments used so that a functionally equivalent instrument could be used to repeat the experiment?
- 3- If the data is in the public domain, could another researcher lay his or her hands on the identical data set?

- 4- Could one replicate any statistical analyses?
- 5- Could another researcher approximately replicate the key algorithms of any computer software?

Note: Do not include descriptions of result.

12- Results

- The results are actual statements of observations, including statistics, tables and graphs.
- Mention negative results as well as positive.
- Present sufficient details so that others can draw their own inferences and construct their own explanations.

Note: do not interpret results-save that for the discussion.

13- Conclusions

This should summarize your results and discussion. You should include a list of the most important findings of your study in descending order of importance. Conclusions should also be linked with the objectives of the study. You should also provide a statement about the possibility of future study. What needs to be done and what does study contribute?

14- What is referencing?

Referencing is a system that allows you to acknowledge the contributions of others in your writing. Whenever you use any words, ideas or information from any source your assignments, you must reference those sources. This means that if you use the exact words of an author, if you paraphrase their words or if you summarize their ideas, you must provide a reference. Not referencing your sources means you may be charged with plagiarism and your work could be failed.

