Components of a Dissertation:

Title Page

Contents Page (usually includes a word count)

Chapter 1: Introduction

- A brief description of the background, context and setting in which the study has taken place
- A brief outline of the topic and how you came to choose it
- Significance of the study
- What you wanted to find out (purpose and aims of the study)
- What you expected to find out (hypothesis)
- How you tackled it, and perhaps how your results fit into the broader picture

Approximately 1,000 words.*

Chapter 2: Literature Review

A review of the literature you have found on your subject, with particular emphasis on theories and debates on the subject. This will place your project into a broader academic context.

- Historical background of the problem area
- Analysis and summary of current knowledge and theory relevant to the problem
- Evaluate promising research methods
- Critically evaluate the literature’s methodology
- Highlight gaps in research
- Conclude by summarising what the literature says

Approximately 2,500 words.

Chapter 3: Methodology

A review of the methods you used to carry out your research with a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the approach you followed and the approaches you rejected (i.e. why you chose to collect your data in the way that did).

- Development of data collection or data analysis
- Theories that might contribute to how you went about doing your research

Approximately 1,000 words.

Chapter 4: Results

An account of what you found from your study.

- Data represented in tables or graphs
- Information about what the tables or graphs are showing in paragraph format with reference made to each one
- Clearly labelled tables and graphs. Tables labelled above and graphs labelled below
Chapter 5: Discussion

A more critical analysis of the results in which you discuss the results in the context of your original aims, the literature review.

- Discussion of findings
- Links made to studies in the Literature Review
- Summarise and interpret findings
- Place findings in context
- Limitations of your study
- Recommendations for the future (usually in Conclusion, but can be under Discussion if Conclusion and Discussion are combined)

Chapter 6: Conclusion and, if appropriate, recommendations for action.

Approximately 1,000 words.

References

Appendices – additional information, for example: a sample consent form; your raw data; copy of a survey; floor plan, etc.

* based on a 10,000 word dissertation