

Dimensions of the Major Components of a Dissertation (Lovitts, 2005)

Chapter One: Introduction

The introduction

- Includes a problem statement
- Makes clear the research question to be addressed
- Describes the motivation for the study
- Describes the context in which the question arises
- Provides a roadmap for readers

Chapter Two: Literature Review

The literature review:

- Is comprehensive and up to date
- Shows a command of the literature
- Contextualizes the problem
- Includes a discussion of the literature that is selective, synthetic, analytical, and thematic

Chapter Three: Methods

The methods applied or developed are:

- Appropriate
- Described in detail
- In alignment with the question addressed and the theory used

In addition, the author demonstrates:

- An understanding of the methods' advantages and disadvantages
- How to use the methods

Chapter Four: Results and Analysis

The analysis:

- Is appropriate
- Aligns with the questions and hypotheses raised
- Show sophistication
- Is iterative

In addition, the amount and quality of data or information is:

- Sufficient
- Well presented
- Intelligently interpreted

The author also cogently expresses:

- The insights gained from the study
- The study's limitations

Chapter Five: Discussion and Conclusion

The conclusion:

- Summarizes the findings
- Provides perspective on them
- Refers back to the introduction
- Ties everything together
- Discusses the study's strengths and weaknesses
- Discusses implications and application for the discipline
- Discusses future directions for research