

The background is a gradient of dark blue and purple, speckled with small white dots. Overlaid on the left side are several concentric circular patterns. A prominent circular scale with degree markings from 140 to 260 is visible. Other circles of varying sizes and line styles (solid, dashed) are scattered across the left half of the image, some with arrows indicating a clockwise direction.

STARTING TO WRITE YOUR DISSERTATION



- START WRITING AS YOU GO ALONG
- DON'T PUT WRITING OFF TO THE END
- MAKE COMPREHENSIVE NOTES AS YOU READ – NOT JUST STICKING IN COLOURED PAPER BOOKMARKS!
- RE-WRITE AND EDIT AS YOUR ARGUMENTS DEVELOP, NOT JUST AT THE END
- TRY TO KEEP TO A CLEAR, GENERIC PLAN AND STRUCTURE

• KISS

SUGGESTED STRUCTURE

- TITLE PAGE
- ABSTRACT
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
- CONTENTS PAGE (ILLUSTRATIONS, ABBREVIATIONS)
- INTRODUCTION
- LITERATURE REVIEW
- SOURCES AND METHODS
- FINDINGS / DISCUSSION
- CONCLUSION
- REFERENCES
- APPENDICES

TITLE

- TELL THE READER WHAT ITS ABOUT!
- CATCH THE READER'S ATTENTION
- SNAPPY, SPECIFIC, CLEAR AND TRUE TO THE RESEARCH YOU HAVE DONE

ABSTRACT

- A STAND-ALONE SUMMARY OF THE WHOLE DISSERTATION
- CAN BE DONE AT THE END, OR AT THE BEGINNING AS AN INITIAL “PLAN”
- IT IS NOT AN INTRODUCTION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- YOUR OSCAR WINNING THANK YOU SPEECH

CONTENTS

- INCLUDE ALL SECTIONS WITH PAGE NUMBERS
- INCLUDE A SEPARATE LIST FOR PHOTOS, TABLES, ILLUSTRATIONS
- INCLUDE A SEPARATE LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

INTRODUCTION

- TO INTRODUCE WHAT'S COMING NEXT!
- AN EXPANSION OF THE ABSTRACT

LITERATURE REVIEW

- PUTTING YOUR RESEARCH INTO CONTEXT
- WHAT IS THE CURRENT RESEARCH IN YOUR AREA
- WHAT IS THE CURRENT THEORETICAL APPROACH/ES IN YOUR AREA
- IS THERE A CONTROVERSY OR GAP
- HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR RESEARCH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXISTING BODY OF KNOWLEDGE
- YOU CAN REFER BACK TO THIS SECTION DURING YOUR DISCUSSION

METHODOLOGY

- WHAT IS THE SETTING AND WHY DID YOU CHOSE IT
- HOW DID YOU CARRY YOUR RESEARCH OUT (EG. HOW DID YOU CHOOSE PARTICIPANTS)
- WHAT STRATEGY DID YOU USE AND WHY
- WHAT DESIGN AND TECHNIQUES DID YOU USE TO GATHER DATA
- WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THOSE METHODS AND NOT ANOTHER
- WHAT ANALYSIS DID YOU USE AND HOW/WHY DID YOU STRUCTURE IT (EG. THEMES, HEADINGS)
- LIMITITATIONS AND ETHICS
- SELF REFLECTION

DISCUSSION

- REVIEW YOUR DATA WITH THE IDENTIFIED THEMES
- EXPLORE YOUR RESEARCH IN THE WIDER CONTEXT (REFER BACK TO YOUR LITERATURE REVIEW)
- DEVELOP YOUR ARGUMENT/CRITICAL ANALYSIS/VIEWPOINT
- YOUR RESEARCH DATA SHOULD RUN THROUGH YOUR DISCUSSION (USE EXAMPLES)

CONCLUSION

- NOT JUST A SUMMARY BUT CONCLUDE YOUR ANALYSIS AND THE MAIN POINTS OF YOUR DISCUSSION
- ARE THERE AREAS THAT DESERVE FURTHER RESEARCH
- ARE THERE GAPS IN YOUR RESEARCH THAT
- ARE THERE TANGENTS THAT COULD BE EXPLORED FURTHER