

How to write your project summary / dissertation

This dissertation type summative essay should provide and answer to your research question presented in your abstract. Please follow the usual structure of a dissertation (except the abstract after the title page as this will be your first assessment component).

1. Title page
 - a. Give your work a real title, resulting from the research question
 - b. The research question itself should then be added to the introduction / research proposal section
2. Acknowledgements (if you have any to make)
 - a. your opportunity to mention individuals who have been particularly helpful
3. Contents, and figure and table lists
 - a. show the structure of the dissertation
 - b. any imbalance in space devoted to different sections of content will become apparent → useful check if you need to bring sections together or split them up further
 - c. for the purpose of **this project summary** of 2500 words, you do not need to go further than one level
4. Introduction and/or Research Proposal
 - a. often written as the last part
 - b. sets out the research question that you explore
 - c. gives some ideas about how you might go about
 - d. contains at least some theoretical foundation (more to be discussed later)
 - e. gives an idea of why you want to study this issue;
5. Literature Review
 - a. show that you are aware of where your own piece of research fits into the overall context of research in your field
 - i. current state of research in your defined area;
 - ii. consider whether there are any closely related areas that you also need to refer to;
 - iii. identify a gap where your research sits
 - b. does not have to be a separate chapter; can be part of the introduction or included in your chapters
6. Methodology, which are often combined because what you plan to do should emerge from and complement the previous literature
 - a. straightforward description is required of how you conducted the research
7. Results and Discussion
 - a. review your own research in relation to the wider context in which it is located

- b. sets out what you actually did
 - c. results you obtained, limitations faced
 - d. discusses results in the context of the literature
- 8. Conclusions and Extra Sections (appendix, ...) → main points that have emerged and what they mean for your field/discipline/area
- 9. References / bibliography
 - a. needs to be highly structured and include all references in the required referencing style
 - b. when final edit, 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