

Dissertation Outline

The outline for the dissertation proposal and the dissertation are essentially identical for the first three chapters. The following outline is provided as a sample that *may be modified by the dissertation committee* based upon demonstrated need of the scholarly project.

Abstract

Chapter 1: Introduction

- Central theme/Background
- Statement of the problem
- Purpose of the study/project
- Need for the study/project
- Research questions
- Hypothesis or objectives of the project in qualitative dissertations
- Definition of terms

Chapter 2: Review of the Literature

- Introduction
- Theoretical framework(s) underlying the research purpose
- Thorough review of relevant empirical studies and/or qualitative research
- Summary

Chapter 3: Methodology (qualitative or quantitative)

Quantitative:

- Research design
- Population and sample or Participants
- Instrumentation or qualitative research classification
- Procedures
- Data analysis

Qualitative:

- Research Design
- Participants
- Role of Researcher
- Information Collection
- Procedures
- Information Analysis

Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Results

- Data analysis and results, organized according to the research question(s)

Chapter 5: Conclusions

Findings or interpretation of results

Generalizations

Limitations

Implications

References & Appendixes