

The acknowledgements section of a dissertation comes after the abstract . It is the section where the researcher has the opportunity to thank all those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the research in some way. Typically, a researcher will wish to extend their thanks to their department and supervisor, any other external advisors, colleagues and family who offered advice and support, subjects who volunteered to participate in any empirical studies, surveys etc., and organizations who made facilities, materials and personnel available to them for the purposes of their research.

Structuring Acknowledgments Section

Via studying dissertation and thesis acknowledgments, Hyland (2004) identifies a common pattern for expressing gratitude by students that he concluded in typical three stages for developing the Acknowledgements sections as follows:

A Reflecting Move

Some introspective comments on the writer’s research experience are made in this paragraph, in this move, via explaining the dissertation journey, its challenges, and the ways of overcoming them. And in order to complete this part of the Acknowledgements section, the following questions need to be addressed:

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Examples</i>
What challenges did the supervisee (s) face?	Intellectual challenges Emotional challenges Motivational challenges Organizational challenges
How did the supervisee overcome challenges?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focusing on securing access to the research organizations and/or research participants

	<p>early in the dissertation process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrowing down research aims as early as possible. Setting achievable research questions/objectives. Seeking academic and technical advice and support from experts ...etc.
What did supervisee (s) learn through the dissertation process?	<p>(1) time management; (2) critical review and analysis; (3) bridging theory and practice; (4)dealing with people and/or organizations; (5) how to work independently...etc</p>

A Thanking Move

Through this move, both credit and gratitude to individuals and institutions are expressed explicitly via identifying and thanking them properly. The thanking move involves five steps:

- List the individuals/ organizations who helped.
- Specify the kind of help they provided (e.g. intellectual help, opening doors, providing resources or moral support...etc) .
- Order the thanking move as follows:
Professional acknowledgments before personal acknowledgments

4. Be strategic (i.e. thanking key people, even if you feel they let you down in some way)
5. Think about ways to express your thanks.

Remember, your supervisor is not there to lead but to support. Conducting research is, in part, about finding and expressing your voice, about realising your ideas. It is about autonomy, initiative and taking control of your own project.

Example

First and for most I would like to express my profound and deep gratitude to my supervisor, whom I respect deeply, Dr. Jamel GOUI for his countless hours of reflecting, reading, encouraging, and most of all, his enduring patience and unremitting help throughout the entire process. Also, I wish to extend my thanks to both members of the board of examiners Mr. Djelloul BOURAHLA and Mr. Mohammed CHOUCANI for granting me the honor to examine and evaluate my dissertation. Special thanks must go to my former teacher Mr. Mohamed NOAH for encouraging and supporting my path in English studies, from the beginning and till the very end.

An Announcing Move

In this move, responsibility for any flaws or errors are accepted on the part of the researcher before dedicating the dissertation to target audience. Nonetheless, this move is less commonly used, and at the undergraduate and master's level, it's probably unnecessary unless students feel particularly strongly about including it. Dedicating the work is fine, but it's probably no longer necessary to accept responsibility for the work in the acknowledgements section. After all, because of the increasing focus on plagiarism, it is often expected to include a separate sheet in the dissertation declaring that the work and ideas are all your own anyway. Thus, there is a little point repeating oneself here.

Example

Notwithstanding all of the above support for this project, any for flaws or errors are solely my own.

I love my family. This thesis is dedicated to them.

Useful language

- I owe my gratitude to.....
- I would like to thank.....for the help and guidance [s/he] has given me.
- This dissertation would not have been possible without.....
- I would like to thank [Name] for being there for me.....
- I would like to thank [organization name] for permission to include copyrighted [tables, graphs, photographs].

In case you are interested for more check :
Phrase Book for Writing Papers and Research in
English

While You 're At It !

Think about your own personality and circumstances. What are some of the intellectual, emotional, motivational and organisational challenges you will be susceptible to during the course of your research? List them, along with some strategies that you believe will help you address those challenges.