

A dissertation is research project completed as part of undergraduate or postgraduate degree at university or college. As an academic formal research paper, it distinguishes itself from research proposals, articles and even thesis in terms of length, structure, organization and formatting structure.

As regard for length, a dissertation is longer than an article and shorter than a thesis; usually it is somewhere between 15,000 and 20,000 words, but this can vary widely between courses, institutions and even countries. In terms of structure, a dissertation is an essay-based piece of academic writing combined by different types of essays and sub-essays these are separated by sections and sub-sections of in the dissertation main body.

In respect to organization, a dissertation comprises of theoretical & practical parts followed by general conclusion, list of references, appendices and preceded by a font page, a dedication, an acknowledgments, an abstract along with keywords , list of abbreviations and acronyms, a list of figures, a list of tables, a table of contents and general introduction. And concerning the formatting structure, a dissertation complies to text formatting structure such as font type, size style, color, bolding ,italicizing...etc, components representations and distributions and just like the length the templates vary according to academia and university preferences.

The primary purpose of writing a dissertation is to learn more about a particular topic. Typically, a dissertation allows students to present their findings in response to a question or proposition that they choose themselves. The aim of the project is to test the independent research skills students have acquired during their time at university, with the assessment used to help determine their final grade. Although there is usually some guidance from your tutors, the dissertation project is largely independent.

Basically, the type of dissertation completed varies according to the course of study. Depending on the subject area, a dissertation may be empirical or non-empirical. While, the former is more common in the sciences and involves collecting; analyzing data; and representing and discussing findings to finalize conclusions. The latter is more common in the humanities, for it involves researching existing data, ideas, and arguments, then offering a critical analysis or making an argument based on the research. We may also distinguish between the traditional dissertation- *also known as Simple Traditional Dissertation*- that comprises of introduction, review of the literature, materials and methods, results, discussion and conclusion.

Some Key Characteristics & Features for Clear and Effective Dissertation Writing

*Concision Precision Coherence
Cohesion Clear Formal Gender-neutral
Supported with references
Work cited
Acknowledging alternative perspectives
Devoid of clichés & plagiarism .*

Criteria for Examining Dissertations

1. Capacity to demonstrate critical analysis and original thought in all aspects of the study.
2. The extent to which the dissertation makes a significant original contribution to knowledge and the application of knowledge within the field of study.

Keep in mind

Developing a distinctive and personalized view of the issue under investigation is crucial for producing an original research paper.

Think about

How is it possible for researchers to develop sense of ownership whereas their work relies tremendously on previous research and the ideas of others?