TITLE IN ALL CAPS

Enter Your Name

A Dissertation

Submitted to Franklin University in partial fulfillment of

the requirements for the degree of

DOCTORATE OF (DISCIPLINE)

Month, Year

Committee:

Last, First Name, Title, Committee Chair

Last, First Name, Title, Committee Member

Last, First Name, Title, Committee Member

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© Name of Student (YEAR)

# **Abstract**

An abstract includes 1-2 sentences on the background of the topic. 1-2 sentences on the focus of the study. 1-2 sentences on how the study was conducted. 1-2 sentences on the findings of the study. 1-2 sentences on the implications of the findings. Maximum words for abstract – 250 words.

**Dedication (optional)**

Enter Dedication Text (optional).

# **Acknowledgments**

Enter Acknowledgement Text.

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# **Chapter 1: Introduction**

The Chapter headings in your dissertation must be designated as a heading 1 using Word styles. They must be centered, bold, and use title case. Only the main Chapter headings can be designated as heading 1 in the body of your dissertation. The titles of the main chapter headings must match the titles used in this template.

You can design this section with heading levels 2, 3, and 4. Researchers can design this chapter differently. The most common subsections in introduction chapter are:

* Background of the Study
* Statement of the Problem
* Purpose of Study
* Research Question
* Significance of the Study
* Assumptions
* Definitions of Constructs
* Organization of the Dissertation (this could also be included at the beginning of this chapter, but is more commonly seen at the end of the introduction).

## Formatting Headings and Subheadings

All subsections should be marked by the appropriate heading levels. All heading levels must be consistent throughout the document and must be formatted consistently with the formatting of this template. Heading levels 2 and 3 may be applied using Word heading styles, and the levels of headings must be formatted as follows:

|  |
| --- |
| **Level 1 (Main Chapter Head): Centered, Bold, Title Case**  **Level 2: Subheading of Level 1, Flush Left, Bold, Title Case**  ***Level 3: Subheading of Level 2, Flush Left, Bold, Italic, Title Case***  **Level 4: Subheading of Level 3, Indented, Bold, Title Case, Ending with Period.** Text of paragraph continues on same line.  ***Level 5: Subheading of Level 4, Indented, Bold, Italic, Title Case, Ending with Period.*** Text of paragraph continues on same line. |

## Formatting Table of Contents

The Table of Contents should only include the first 3 heading levels. If heading levels 4 and 5 are used, do not list them in the Table of Contents. The Table of Contents does not include preliminary pages, but starts with Chapter 1: Introduction.

## Definition of Terms

If the dissertation includes a Definition of Terms section, the terms should be formatted with each term as a paragraph. The term itself should be indented, and in italics, followed by the definition.

# **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

The literature review will be organized with heading levels 2, 3, and 4, depending on the topic. It is often organized by the themes or the patterns you have found in your literature, so there is no common template because topics are different. However, there is generally an “introduction” and a “summary” section in the literature review. *Please do not forget to add your theory that drives the study and a conceptual framework in the literature review.*

Here are some recommended approaches to positioning the literature review:

1. Systematic Review – examines all relevant research and evidence over time from past studies in a comprehensive manner to appraise the relevance to the study.
2. Theoretical Review – examines the body of theory over time and relationships to the phenomena.
3. Historical Review – examines research over a period of time to trace evolution of this within scholarly discipline.
4. Thematic Review – organizes the literature around the key topical areas relevant to the study

Whichever way you choose to position your literature review, make sure that you undertake a critical review of the relevant literature addressing research topic/problem and/or constructs/variables of interest; clearly articulating points of convergence, inconsistencies and gaps in the literature as well as how the reviewed literature supports the need for the present study (your study); ensure also that you present in detailed the theoretical framework guiding the study.

# **Chapter 3: Methodology**

There are various ways to organize your Methodology Chapter, but there are some common practices of subsections (clearly, there could be additional ones, or the omission of some depending on the study’s design). Common sections include:

* Overall research design
* Description of participants (possibly a table to describe them)
* Sampling type used
* Recruitment strategy used
* Data collection (how was the data collected, for how long, and any other details about the data collection)
* Trustworthiness, Accuracy, and Researcher’s Bias
* Data preparation, how the data was transcribed, cleaned, coded, and organized
* How the data was analyzed and interpreted, number of codes, themes, and sub-themes.
* Ethical considerations (or human participant considerations)

# **Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Findings**

This chapter includes heading levels 2, 3, and 4. Researchers organize these in different ways, but some common subsections are (feel free to use the ones that are relevant to you and add others beyond this list):

* A review of the research question
* Findings (organize these by themes and sub-themes; figures are appreciated and encouraged; description of themes is often illustrated and supported with direct quotes)
* Summary of the Results

# **Chapter 5: Discussion of Results, Implications, and Recommendations**

This chapter is organized using heading levels 2, 3, and 4, and it will look different depending on the study and your organization. Here are some common headings of this section (feel free to add to these or omit anything that does not fit your work).

* Results (a brief reminder of the key results)
* Limitations of the study (one can start with limitations first)
* Discussion of findings
* Recommendations for future research
* Practical implications
* Theoretical implications

# **References**

# **Appendix A: Title**

# **Appendix B: Title**