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 the Study
* Significance of the Study
* Theoretical Framework
* Research Question(s) and Hypotheses
* Definitions of Terms
* Assumptions, Limitations and Delimitations of the Study
* 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.

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. Some of these subsections are common for qualitative designs and some are common for quantitative designs). Common sections include:

* Introduction (introduce the chapter and what is to be covered/state content of the methodology chapter)
* Research Design
* Population of Study (provide description of target population/participants)
  + Sampling Plan
  + Power and Sample Size Determination
* Measurement and Instrumentation
* Reliability and Validity Issues
  + E.g. Test-Retest Reliability
  + Internal Consistency (split-half correlation such scores on even-numbered items vs scores on odd-numbered items and Cronbach’s α)
  + Interrater Reliability
  + Face Validity
  + Content Validity
  + Criterion Validity (among others)
* Data Collection Procedures (ensure you also discuss ethical considerations or human participant considerations under this section)
* Data Analysis Procedures (often here is included: Data Cleaning Procedures, Assumptions Tested, Steps to the Analysis; Rationale of the Analysis among others)
* Summary of the chapter

# Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Findings

The purpose of this chapter is to present the data analyses performed to answer the research question(s) and/or hypotheses. Present the findings for each research questions and/or hypothesis with clear statement that address each research question and/or hypothesis. Do not interpret the findings under this chapter; save that for chapter 5.

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):

* Introduction (introduce the chapter and what is to be covered/state content of the results chapter, including what was done and the specific research questions and/or hypotheses tested, you may also restate the purpose of the study)
* Data Collection Results and Preparation (summarize data collection plans and note any changes from the originally stated plans and procedures; discuss preliminary data preparation and/or cleaning steps, such as handling missing data, checking for data accuracy as well as outliers; discuss response rate and attrition, including total responses received, number excluded or removed responses, final total sample size and post-hoc power analysis conducted if the required sample size was missed.
* Demographic and Descriptive Statistics (present descriptive statistics variables, including demographic and any other variables of interest; if possible compare demographic characteristic of participants/sample to the population; you may also discuss reliability and validity results)
* Assumption Testing (state and discuss required assumptions for each analysis you are conducting, how the assumptions were tested, findings of each assumption test and state whether it was met or not met as well as actions taken if the assumption is violated or not met)
* Statistical Analysis (Main Analysis of Research Questions/Hypotheses) (present the findings of the data analysis performed to answer each research question and/or hypothesis; you could organize the section by the research questions and/or hypothesis; it is important to note any changes from originally stated data analysis procedures, if any; clearly identify the variables utilized in each analysis –independent variables, dependent, mediators, covariates etc.; report appropriate statistics related to each test such as F-values, p-values, effect size, and so on; equally important is to state clearly whether the null was rejected or not rejected)
  + Further Analysis Results (if applicable) (present findings any additional analysis conducted to support and further illuminate the main analysis)
* Summary of the Results (summarize the chapter content and if necessary provide transitioning statement to chapter 5)

# 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).

* Introduction (introduce the chapter and what is to be covered in the chapter)
* Summary of Results (provide a brief summary/recap of the findings before focusing on detailed discussion of the findings; you may also include any additional observations)
* Discussion of Results (provide a detailed interpretation of the findings in relation to research questions and/or hypothesis discuss key findings, including specific variables of interest as well as any other further analysis findings reported in Chapter 4; in your discussion compare the findings with existing literature (tie the findings back to Chapter 2) and address similarities and/or differences; provide well-reasoned explanation for any differences in the findings with literature)
* Recommendations for Future Research (suggest and articulate possible areas for future research based on the study’s limitations)
* Practical Implications (discuss implications and/or contributions of the study to practice)
* Theoretical Implications (discuss implication and/or contributions of the study to theory or knowledge in the field)
* Limitations of the Study (acknowledge and discuss any limitations of the findings and/or the study)
* Conclusion (provide final thoughts and insights about the findings and/or study)
* Summary of the Chapter (summarize the main findings of the study and key take away)

# References

# Appendix A: Title

# Appendix B: Title