

Review Dissertation

A fairly typical structure is as follows:

Title page	Check your guidance but this may include your title, course and name.
Contents page	You can use the facility in Word to create this for you Insert contents . You need to use the Headings in word to make this work. You may also include a separate list of tables.
Abstract	A summary of your research giving a brief overview of the topic, type of review and key words, key themes/findings and conclusion.
Introduction	Sets the context that justifies your research topic, why is it important? Is there a gap in the research? Identify your key research question and any sub questions. Identify the type of review and the type of literature searched e.g. A systematic approach using clinical trial data to answer defined questions or a more narrative and inductive approach, allowing themes to emerge from the review (or more often somewhere in between).
Literature review/ methods	Presents how the search was carried out, which keywords in which resources/databases (your methods). Depending on your guidance this can be presented as a table in the text or appendix, along with the number of hits. What were your inclusion/exclusion criteria? How did you analyse and critically appraise the results? Gives an overview of the sources found, e.g. Number of sources and type of research. It should also flag any gaps in the literature. If you have a separate findings section, this overview should go at the beginning of that.
Findings/Discussion	Depending on the type of review, this where you synthesise the sources to answer your research question OR present the themes that have emerged. Again, depending on the type of review, you may choose to have separate findings and discussion sections OR present each theme with its own findings and discussion. The Findings will present the key studies and their findings, with some critical appraisal to judge the significance. The Discussion is around how the findings have answered your question. It is your interpretation of the findings, relating to additional sources, policy or practice. It should also Identify any limitations in the review.
Conclusion	What is the answer to your research question and how does the literature support it? Why are your findings significant and what are the implications for practice or further research?
Recommendations	If your assignment requires it as a separate section.
Reference list/ bibliography	Most undergrad research requires a reference list – the sources cited. Postgrad research may require a fuller bibliography of all sources consulted.
Appendices	Only if necessary, they shouldn't be used as a way to get around the word count. Include any extra information that might be useful for the reader, such as the literature search strategy and a table of critical appraisals of your sources.