

Detailed outline of a thesis or dissertation

Part	What's included in this part
Front matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title page • Abstract • Dedication page (optional) • Author's declaration (sworn declaration) • Table of contents • List of figures and tables • List of accompanying material • Acknowledgments (optional)
1 <i>Introduction</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the research problem • The research question and research aim (purpose statement) • Relevance of the research (including evidence from the literature) • Information on how the rest of the thesis is organized
2 <i>Literature Review</i> (Theoretical Background)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A structured overview of the relevant literature • Theoretical framework (maybe also hypotheses if you intend to test theory)
3 <i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chosen research method (and why you chose it) • The sample (and the criteria for choosing the sample) • Data collection procedures • Data analysis methods • How scientific quality is ensured (objectivity, validity, reliability)
4 <i>Results</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting the results of your study in a structured way
5 <i>Discussion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the key findings of your research • Comparison of your research results with previous research • Contribution to generating new knowledge • Implications in practice • Limitations of your work • Suggestions for further research
6 <i>Conclusion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer to the research question • A strong "take-home message"
Back matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference list and/or bibliography • Appendices (including, for example, a questionnaire or interview guidelines, interview transcripts, detailed data analysis tables, or other relevant research material) • Glossary (optional) • Index (optional)

Source of this short summary of key rules of APA style:
 Sternad, D., & Power, H. (2023). *The thesis writing survival guide: Research and write an academic thesis or dissertation with less stress*. econcise, p. 17.