Dissertation Template 3:

Mixed methods research project

**Example**: Who are the key influencers in the #metoo movement, what characteristic in their politics and forms of communication do they implement?

**Title page**: Tile of project, your name, registration number, course/degree title.

Example:

* Who are the key influencers in the #metoo movement, what characteristic in their politics and forms of communication do they implement?
* Kitty Nichols
* Registration no 1234567
* Sociological Studies
* University of Shefftown.

**Contents**: List of chapters and page numbers.

This is a straightforward section and there are often tools and technology on the computer programs you are using to write up the dissertation which do this for you (for example within *Microsoft Word* the creation of a contents page can be found under the ‘Reference’ tab). A top tip here is to **ensure that you are consistent**; this includes making the font the same throughout and using line spacing effectively.

Finding your Way: Ensure that the page numbers in the document match those listed in the contents page.

**Literature review chapter(s)**: This sets out the existing work in this area and what has previously been identified, as well as highlighting any gaps in the literature.

Finding your Way: By the time you finish this section the research gap should be really clear to the reader.

It is usual to organize this chapter using sub-sections. Breaking up the chapter into themes helps you to organize your own thinking and convey the main arguments clearly. It is likely that these sections will be guided by your literature searching. These can be broad and broken down into smaller sections, or they can be very focussed. In order to make this decision, it is best to discuss the options with your supervisor.

In the other resources online we have provided ‘research plan templates’ as one possible way of beginning to identifying these themes.

It is also useful to consider how the sections fit together and try to position these in a logical order.

**Methodology**: This includes a discussion of the methods chosen and the theory
behind these, as well as justification for your decisions. Drawing on methods literature throughout, this section also discusses the sample and ethics. There is more to a dissertation than the communication of results. It is just as important to show the examiners that the methods underpinning your research are appropriate.

Finding your Way:You need to clearly justify why the mixed method approach is most suitable and why this will enable you to successfully address your research questions (so why one method alone would not be enough).

Example:

* **Mixed method approach**. Phase one: scrape hashtags from Twitter relating to #metoo using quantitative content analysis (tool tbc). From these, select the top 100 tweets.
* **Phase two:** qualitative analysis of the top 100 tweets, implementing thematic and discourse analysis methods.

**Findings chapters**: This provides both a description of the data and the presentation of it. Often this chapter is combined with the following one, as it can be difficult to separate your findings from the analysis.

You might have multiple findings chapters depending on the discipline, methodology, and your data. Alternatively, similarly to the literature review chapter, you might divide this chapter into sections. The decision on how this will look, or how many you have, will be dependent on your data and how you want to present it.

The research plan template within the online resources will act as a good place to begin identifying these sections.

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