

'The Critical Part': Suggested structure template

Section	Guiding questions	Notes
Introduction <i>This section summarises the why + what + where + how of your work.</i> <i>The purpose of this section is to introduce your project for your reader/ examiner.</i> <i>Establish your voice. Engage your reader. Don't get into in-depth discussion. Think of this section as a way of framing, positioning and mapping what is to come.</i>	What did you do? A brief description or outline of the main elements of your research. Why did you do it? What were your motivations for this research? This may link to the 'where' of your lit review (the problems, gaps or conversations you identify as part of the context of your work). But there may also be personal stories that you want to share that form your 'big why'. How did you approach it? Give an overview or summary of your methodology section. Remember to briefly describe rather than discuss. What did you find, discover and conclude? What is your original contribution to knowledge? Briefly summarise your findings + conclusion.	

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Context/ Lit review <i>Where?</i> <i>This section situates your work in a context. Its purpose is to signal to the reader/ examiner that you know where your work fits, and the key gaps, problems or conversations with which you are engaging.</i>	Who and what are your influences? What other writers, artists, thinkers, movements or ideas have you read, surveyed or reviewed? Where and how does your work fit? What key issues, problems or gaps did you identify? What are the conversations in the field or genre that your own writing is contributing to? How are you further developing or problematising existing knowledge or practice through your own work ?	
Methodology <i>How?</i>	What methods or approaches did you draw on? Are there established ways of approaching this research that you drew on, adapted or subverted? Or did you need to invent a new kind of methodology? What problems, challenges or constraints did you need to think through? What were the ethical considerations that you needed to think about?	

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	Were there approaches that you tried and that did not work? Did your methods need to change or adapt over time? Did you discover any shortcomings with your methodology that you will need to address in the Discussion?	
Findings <i>What?</i> <i>This section describes the what of your research process. Point your reader/ examiner clearly to your main discoveries.</i>	What are your main findings and discoveries? List. Describe. Emphasise. Make them easy to understand and impossible to miss.	
Discussion <i>So what? What if? What next?</i> <i>Analyse, interrogate and discuss your findings through the framework of your</i>	What is important, interesting, surprising or problematic about what you found? How does it relate to what we knew or	

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<i>creative and critical reading.</i>	thought before? How might it change our understanding of a process, form, genre, tradition, movement or idea? This section may also develop your claims to knowledge from your method. Given your approach, how can you reasonably claim to know what you know? What challenges to your findings might you anticipate? What theoretical framework are you using to analyse what you found? Where would you go next with this research? What new questions do your findings raise?	
Conclusion/ summary <i>The purpose of this section is to summarise your key findings and state clearly what you understand to be your original contribution to knowledge.</i>	What did you find? Why are these findings an important or interesting contribution to what we already think we know? (Restate/ summarise from Discussion section.) How does your work progress our understanding of a particular experience or area of research? Be wary of overclaiming. At the same	

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	time, ensure that you don't understate the importance of what you have done. How has this project changed you as a writer, reader, researcher, human being? A contribution to knowledge can include our own new self-insights and understandings as well as our contributions to a body of work.	
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