

A Possible Outline for the Chapters of the DMin Final Project

Below is a set of possible chapter outlines. These are not meant to be prescriptive, but to put in some order common elements of the project chapters. There are, of course, many other ways to organize these chapters and to weave these elements together rather treating them separately. More than anything this is meant to give you a sense of what elements typically go in each chapter. (One note, while the analytical chapters set up the action, there is often a good deal of foreshadowing if not direct discussion of the action that is to follow in the analytical chapters.)

Chapter 1 - Introduction

1. A description of the problem. (This is done broadly, but also with an eye to the ministerial context and the action that will be designed. That way the reader, from the very beginning, has a strong sense of what is to come. But much of this is likely named here and explained later).
2. A review of scholarly literature related to the problem (this literature review need not be extremely extensive, this is just broadening your perspective by showing what the state of the scholarly conversation on the issue is).
3. A description of your approach and the thesis statement.
4. A map of the chapters to follow.

Chapter 2 – The Wider Context of the Community

1. Snapshot (including demographics) of the wider community, especially related to the issue, and an outline of the chapter.
2. Some background and history to this context
3. A scholarly conversation that sheds light on the issue
4. An engaged form of research that also brings in the voice of the people from your context

Chapter 3 – The Ministry Site

1. Snapshot of the ministerial context and outline of the chapter.
2. Some background and history of this ministry.
3. An engaged form of research that also brings the voice of the people from your context, to get a sense of where they are at on the issue.
4. An exercise of asset mapping with the ministerial site, related to the issue.

Chapter 4 – Theological Vision

1. Opening Vignette/Illustration – a contextual image or story that ties it all together and an outline of the chapter.
2. Fleshing out the vision in conversation with scholars
3. How it connects to the issue
4. How it connects with the ministry site

Chapter 5 – The Action

1. Snapshot of the action and outline of the chapter.
2. How the preceding reflection in chapters 1-4 can inform the ministry sites response to the issue.
3. An account of how the issue and wider community relate to the ministry site, with special attention to structural issues and power dynamics.
4. The process for how the action was collaboratively developed.
5. A description of the action [this is likely, by far, the longest part of this chapter].

Chapter 6 – Assessing the Action

1. An account of how the action went.
2. Some mechanism for getting feedback from participants about the action.
3. An account of lessons learned (positive and negative, for your ministry and beyond) and possible next steps.\