

Structure

Think carefully about the structure of your dissertation: the order of ideas in your argument, how you will divide them up and how many words you will put in each section. After a few days of 'pre-writing' (making notes of your ideas and the ideas in the literature), writers usually start with a rough plan which changes when they have started writing, done more reading, conducted their research and are drawing conclusions. You should check your plan with your supervisor before you start writing and whenever you are going to make a major change to the structure. Here are some possible dissertation structures.

Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
Literature Review	Literature Review	Theory in Context	Theory in Context
Methodology	Case Study	Application	Case Studies
Project set-up and data collection	Discussion	Analysis & Discussion	Project set-up and data collection
Findings & Discussion	Conclusion	Conclusion	Discussion & Conclusions
Conclusion	Bibliography	Bibliography	Bibliography
Bibliography	Appendices		

Language

During your studies at WBS, you have done a lot of reading and these texts will have had a variety of styles depending on their document type, purpose and intended audience. The texts that are the closest to the structure, language and style you should be writing in are the academic journal articles. You will have already submitted some written assignments on your course and gained some feedback. If any of the feedback has related to the way you write or the language you use, then this page is for you. You may also just want to check your writing style or get some new words and phrases to add to your vocabulary and make your writing less repetitious, more fluid and professional. There are also two suggestions for how to beat writer's block at the bottom of the page.

Here are three websites that can help you to improve your writing:

- [GlobalPAD >> Open House - Writing Style](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/al/globalpad/openhouse/academicenglishskills/writing/writingstyle/)
(<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/al/globalpad/openhouse/academicenglishskills/writing/writingstyle/>)
- [Phrasebank at the University of Manchester](http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/) (<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>)
- [UEfAP \(Using English for Academic Purposes\): A Guide for Students in Higher Education - Writing](http://www.uefap.com/writing/writfram.htm)
(<http://www.uefap.com/writing/writfram.htm>)

Writer's Block

One way to beat writer's block is make writing an everyday activity. Get into the habit of writing 500 words per day about anything. This will help your brain open up and the words and ideas flow out so when you really need to get down to serious writing, it will not be so difficult. Another way to beat writer's block is to 'give yourself permission to write garbage' - watch this video: [Writer's block - instant cure](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcKtcXbjwD4) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcKtcXbjwD4>).

Quiz

Now you have the chance to try out some structuring ideas for yourself. If you struggle with this quiz, you will know you have more to learn about structure.

Please attempt the six questions below.

