**Results Chapter Template (Qual & Quant)**

Thanks for downloading the template. **Here’s what you need to know.**

This document provides a generic template for the conclusion chapter/section in a typical dissertation, thesis, or research project - whether qualitative or quantitative in approach.

Keep in mind that some universities and programs require students to **combine the results and discussion** sections into one chapter, while others prefer them separated. So, be sure to follow any instructions provided by your university to ensure you’re aligned with their specific requirements.

In each section of this template, we’ll briefly **explain what each section is about** and the essential points that you need to cover. We’ll also provide links to additional videos and blog posts to help you conquer each section with confidence.

If you’re new to research, a good starting point would be to watch our YouTube videos covering the results chapter:

* For qualitative studies - <https://gradcoach.com/qualitative-results-findings/>
* For quantitative studies - <https://gradcoach.com/quantitative-results-analysis/>

Graphical user interface, application, Teams

Description automatically generated

If you need **1-on-1 assistance** with your dissertation or thesis, feel free to [book an initial consultation](https://my.gradcoach.com/book/new/) with us to discuss private coaching for your project.

Good luck with your research!

***Grad Coach***

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# Opening overview

This section applies to both qualitative and quantitative studies.

The purpose of this section is to remind the reader of the [golden thread](https://gradcoach.com/research-aims-objectives-questions/) underpinning your dissertation or thesis, as well as the basics of the methodology you employed in your study.

To achieve this, you should aim to write a paragraph or two that incorporates the following:

* A sentence reminding the reader of your specific research problem
* A sentence or two repeating your research aims, objectives, and questions
* A sentence reminding the reader of the methodology you used (overview only)
* A sentence indicating the purpose of this chapter (i.e., to present the results)
* A sentence outlining the layout of the chapter (we’ll cover this below)

Keep this section concise – don’t waffle on.

From this section onwards, the structure of your results chapter will depend on whether your study adopted a qualitative or quantitative approach. We’ll cover each of these separately.

# Qualitative Studies – Body content

For qualitative studies, results chapters **tend to be structured according to themes**, which makes it easier for readers to follow. However, keep in mind that not all results chapters have to be structured in this manner. For example, you might structure the data by research questions or by using a theoretical framework. However, this outline adopts a **thematic structure** as it is the most common.

In practical terms, the heading structure will usually look something like the following:

* **Theme 1** (Replace “Theme 1” with the actual name of the theme)
  + Sub-theme 1 (if applicable)
  + Sub-theme 2 (if applicable)
* **Theme 2** (Replace “Theme 2” with the actual name of the theme)
  + Sub-theme 1 (if applicable)
  + Sub-theme 2 (if applicable)
* **Etc.** (expand to as many themes as needed)

**Here’s what you’ll need to cover in each of these:**

Theme 1 (Replace “Theme 1” with the actual name of the theme)

* Write a sentence or two explaining what the theme is – i.e. what does it cover and what does it not cover
* Write a few sentences about which keywords or phrases from the data represent this theme well. For example: *“In this theme, some of the keywords or phrases that emerged were digitalization, company growth, etc.”*
* After that, provide at least 2 examples from the data (e.g., direct quotes, paraphrasing, etc.) that illustrate this theme.

In addition, you can also link your claims to the data by using **appendices**, which you should reference throughout your text. When you reference these, make sure that you include boththe **name/number of the appendix**, as well as **the line(s)** from which you drew your data.

**Sub-theme 1**

Within each theme, you may find subthemes that are worthy of discussion.

* Describe this sub-theme - what is it? For instance, what are some common features of this sub-theme? Be sure to clearly explain how this sub-theme fits into Theme 1.
* Provide at least 2 examples, preferably more, from the data (e.g., direct quotes, paraphrasing, etc.) that illustrate this sub-theme.

Repeat this structure until you’ve covered all your themes and subthemes in detail. Importantly, make sure that you provide **extensive examples** from the data to substantiate each of your themes. In this section, it’s important that you *show* more than you *tell*.

# Quantitative Studies – Body content

For quantitative studies, the body section tends to follow a fairly standardized structure along the following lines:

1. Sample demographics
2. Descriptive statistics
3. Inferential statistics (if applicable)

To create a strong link between the results chapter and the golden thread, it often makes sense to structure the descriptive and inferential statistics **per research question**. In this template, we’ll present this type of structure. However, you’re free to combine all your research questions into one section if this makes more sense for your study.

**Overview of Sample Demographic**

If you have collected data from human subjects, the first set of data that you should present in this chapter is an overview of the sample demographics.

Some of the more typical demographic information includes:

* How age is distributed
* How gender is distributed
* How race and/or ethnicity is distributed
* The areas in which they live

This information, although basic, is very important as it demonstrates **how representative** (or otherwise) the sample is of the broader population, which can speak to the generalizability of your findings. Even if you’re not interested in achieving generalizable results, it’s still a good idea to include this information as it will contextualize your findings which then helps you interpret your data.

**Research Question 1**

In this section, you should write a clear, coherent, and concise summary of the results to Research Question 1 or to the relevant hypothesis, if appropriate. In this summary, you’ll need to include the respective descriptive and inferential statistics.

For the **descriptive statistics,** you’ll want to present the measures of central tendency (e.g., mean, median, mode, skewness, etc.), depending on the type of data you collected (e.g., [nominal, ordinal, interval or ratio](https://gradcoach.com/nominal-ordinal-interval-ratio/)).

* Make sure that you cover the measures of central tendency for all variables in your study.
* It’s a good idea to present this type of information in a large table, as this will make it easier to read and understand.
* If you are utilizing composite measures, you’ll also need to present reliability statistics (e.g., Cronbach’s alpha) for each measure.
* Be sure to label all tables with clear and simple titles, and reference accordingly.

Next, you should present your **inferential statistics**, if applicable to your research question.

* Remind the reader of the type of analysis that you used (e.g., ANOVA, t-test, multiple regression, etc.). Even though you detailed this in your methodology chapter, it’s a good idea to reiterate it to promote coherence across chapters.
* Make sure that you present all relevant findings, even if they are [not statistically significant](https://youtu.be/WTJsqvQ7gr4) or not what you were hoping for.

Lastly, clearly and briefly state how the findings answer Research Question 1 or the relevant hypothesis, but **do not interpret** or try to make **meaning of the results** in this chapter because you’ll do that in the discussion chapter (the next chapter).

**Research Question 2, 3, 4, etc…**

Rinse and repeat for the remainder of the research questions, keeping a consistent structure.

Throughout this chapter, it’s important to make **effective use of figures, charts and graphs** to make your data more digestible. If you’re not sure which chart or graph to use for your data, check out this post: <https://gradcoach.com/chart-selection/>

When including any visuals, be sure to **label them concisely and clearly**, and to cite any relevant sources using the correct reference format. While tables and figures are important, don’t use these to replace your text content. Your text content must present a clear narrative that can **stand on its own** even without the charts, tables, graphs, etc. Ultimately, these visual components should *complement,* not *carry* your writing.

# Concluding summary

This section applies to both qualitative and quantitative studies.

Now that you’ve presented your data and highlighted the key results in relation to your research questions, it's time to wrap it up.

In this section, you’ll need to write one or two concise paragraphs to remind the reader of the **most important findings**. Simply put, you want to highlight the **key takeaways** for the chapter here. Given that this is a summary section, remember not to present any new information. If there’s something new that you’ve thought of, first go back to the body section and present it there before mentioning it here.

This section should be **brief** - one to two paragraphs maximum. Simply highlight the key findings and lay the foundation for the discussion chapter, where you’ll interpret and discuss the meaning of these findings.

# Additional (free) resources

We hope you found this conclusion template useful. Here are a few more resources you might find useful while working on your discussion chapter:

* [How to write the results chapter for qualitative studies](https://gradcoach.com/qualitative-results-findings/) (video & article)
* [How to write the results chapter for quantitative studies](https://gradcoach.com/quantitative-results-analysis/) (video & article)
* [Common mistakes for qualitative results chapters](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO8nC36L2Ao)
* [Common mistakes for quantitative results chapters](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTJsqvQ7gr4)
* [Free templates for each section of the dissertation/thesis](https://gradcoach.com/category/templates-tools/)
* [Free dissertation writing course (online)](https://gradcoach.com/dissertation-course/)

If you would like **1-on-1 support** with your dissertation, thesis or research project, check out our [private coaching service here](https://gradcoach.com/dissertation-coaching/).