

Guidelines for writing the sample chapter

1. Start planning the sample chapter right at the start of the term, as the topic and nature of the sample chapter are crucial factors of success. Please discuss the topic of the sample chapter with your supervisor as soon as possible, and have the topic endorsed by your supervisor well before you actually begin the writing process.
2. The expected length of the sample chapter is between 4,200 and 4,500 words (without the Works Cited section).
3. The sample chapter is expected to fit the general conceptual framework, goals, structure, etc. laid out in your proposal, and agreed on at your proposal defense. Please make sure your readers can relate the chapter to the issues discussed at the proposal defense.
4. Please note that the sample chapter is not a second dissertation proposal or an overview of the proposed dissertation. It is important that the sample chapter should be a fair reflection (indeed, a sample) of the priorities and analytical strategies of the proposed dissertation. Therefore, it is essential that the sample chapter should be argumentative and analytical rather than descriptive. Thus, when deciding on the topic of the sample chapter, avoid choosing sections like the general review of secondary literature, the current state of research and the like (that is, sections that are likely to find their final place in the Introduction of the finished dissertation). Ideally, the sample chapter will demonstrate your analytical skills, making a sustained argument and referring to existing scholarship.
5. The sample chapter has to be introduced by a short text (about half a page) that explains its position, context and function in the general argument of the dissertation. Please note that this preamble is *not* part of the 4,200–4,500 words. If you have made significant changes in the general structure, conceptual framework, goals, etc. of your dissertation since the proposal defence, here is the place to let your readers know.
6. The sample chapter is not necessarily a real dissertation chapter. It is very likely, for example, that your actual dissertation chapter will exceed the word count allowed for the sample chapter, and therefore you have to cut and edit a longer text to meet the format. In this case, please plan carefully what you include and what you cut out, so as to hand in a coherent piece. In the preamble (see above) please indicate what other parts the final chapter is likely to contain, so that your readers see the bigger picture as well.
7. The sample chapter must have a clear statement of theme (preferably in the form of a thesis paragraph), and all further claims must be related to this central topic or question. The text must be organised coherently so that the main points, the direction and shape of the argument are clear for the reader. The chapter must conclude with a clearly articulated conclusion, which follows logically from the argument. The language of the chapter is expected to conform to the international standards of academic scholarship.
8. The sample chapter will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:
 - the quality and articulateness of the thesis
 - the clarity of the argument and of the positions taken by the essay
 - the quality of the analysis
 - the use and integration of secondary sources into the analysis
 - the degree of familiarity with the secondary literature.