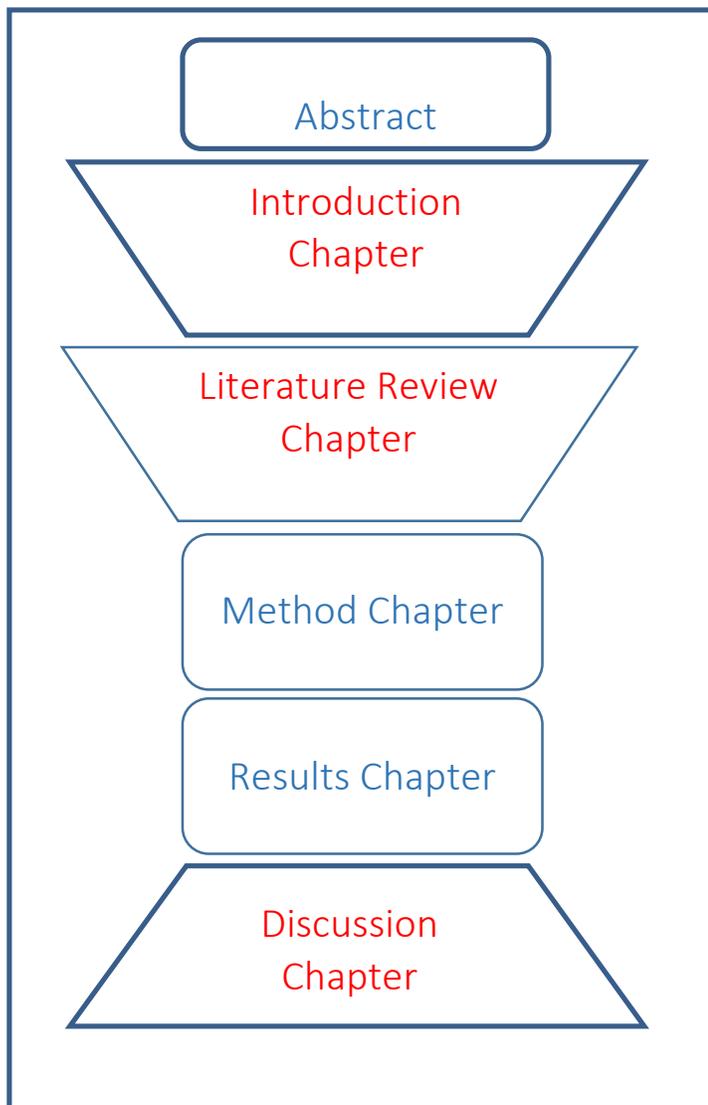




Concept Mapping for Proposal & Dissertation Writers

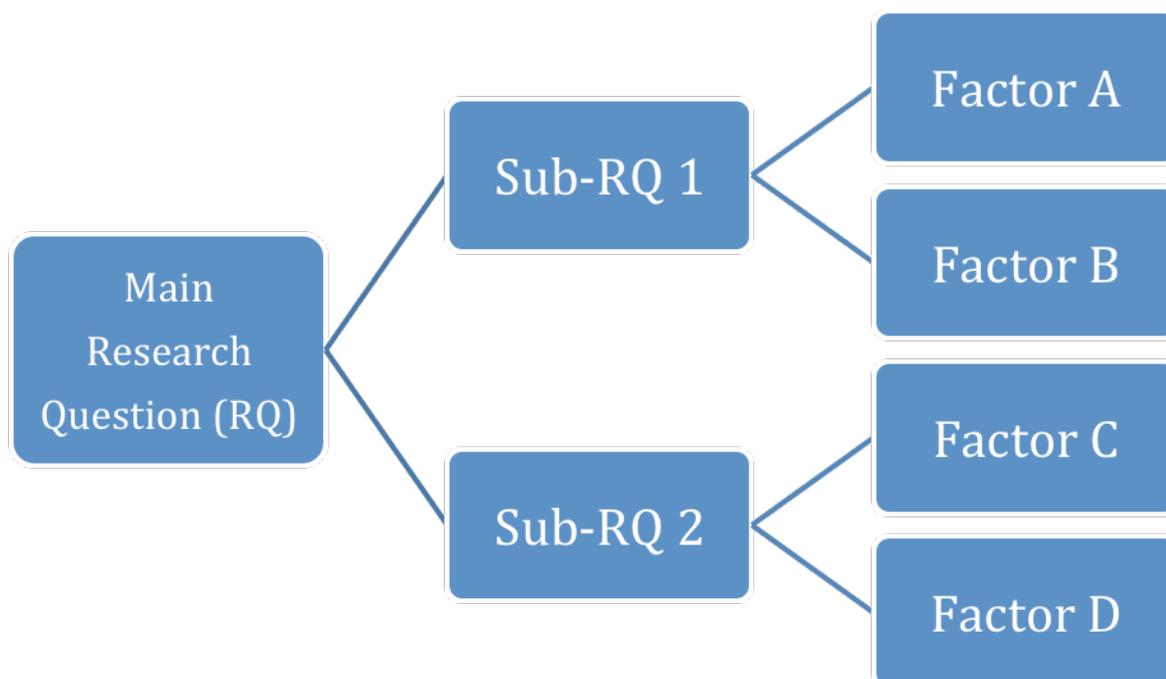
In general, a thesis or dissertation proposal will cover the information from the abstract to the methods chapter. Some programs require students to write the first three chapters as the dissertation proposal. Other programs may only require students to write a chapter-long research proposal but include section headers that served the same functions of introduction, literature review, and method.



Both the **introduction chapter** and the **literature review chapter** present general information first before narrowing down the scope to specific ideas covered in the present study. The **discussion chapter**, in contrast, starts with specific findings from the present study to generate broader implications for the target field of study. The **methods** and the **results chapters** vary widely in their information sequence patterns.

Use Different Concept Maps for Different Chapters

For the **research abstract, introduction chapter, and methodology chapter**, use a **tree diagram** to structure the relationship among a group of related ideas in your study.

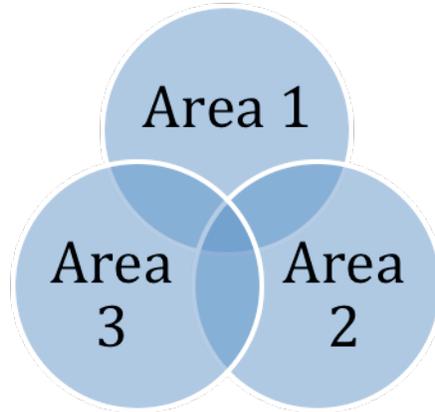


Before writing your literature review chapter, use a table to summarize the key concepts and keywords for your draft of literature review chapter or for your research proposal.

Author (Year)	Key word of the title	Research Method	Results	Relevance to my own study

Use the last column to write in your own word to simply explain to what degree and why this particular study is relevant to your research so that you will remember how you should address this key connection when typing your literature review.

When organizing the findings from literatures to identify a gap to fill with one's own research, try to use a **Venn diagram** to pinpoint where your study is located in what related areas of interests. Then, address the concepts in the overlapping part when writing your literature review chapter. Usually, your **topic sentence for each section/paragraph** should address the connection (shown as the overlapping parts) directly to remind the reader about why you need to introduce studies from certain areas to enrich your literature review in this way.



For the discussion chapter, make sure to re-examine the studies about the same issue even though you have mentioned most of them in the literature review chapter. Use the chart below to compare the supporting views) and the counter-arguments of an idea that emerged from your research results. This will help you think about how to defend your ideas more carefully in your writing.

the supporting views from literature	the counter-arguments
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.