

How to Choose a Research Topic for a Dissertation

There are several main things to consider when choosing a topic for your dissertation. With so much riding on your marks, this is probably being the most important assignment you will embark on during your student life. It is important that you make the right choice of topic.

A dissertation must provide a clear argument to a central thesis or question. It will demonstrate your ability to work and research independently and will provide evidence, through methodical research, to back up your point. Because of the extensive detail and length of a dissertation you may be expected to provide it within chapters.

The most important detail to think about when choosing a dissertation topic is making sure that it is a topic you are really interested in. If you choose something you deem as easy, straight forward, or something just to pass the course it will be very plain to the marker. The subject should be relevant to the career path you intend to follow.

Before settling on your topic, make sure that there is research readily available to you. You must back up your writing with research. Your time will be wasted if you start to write, then discover there is little research to support it. If you have several choices open to you spend some time comparing the amount of material that could be used to help you make your decision. Include popular magazines and journals on the subject area, as their evidence will be up to date and relevant. Ensure there is a niche in your field and use existing research whilst seeing if there is more that can expand upon it. Find the gap to fill!

Be wise! Be wary of taking on too much. It's a good idea to enlist your tutors support early on. Having a good relationship with your tutor can really help, if your tutor advises against your chosen topic it is important to heed their advice. If they are interested in your chosen subject it is easier for them to support you.

Your dissertation should demonstrate your skills as a research and should showcase what you have learned from your course. Take your time choosing your subject weighing the pros and cons of each. Don't rush your decision to regret it later. It also goes without saying, if you take your time to make your choice... you need extra time in total, so start early!

**When your dissertation is finished, make sure it gets the grade you deserve -
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