

Example of possible layout of your dissertation

1. Introduction

- Addressed question(s)
- Why do you think your question is relevant? Try to find some evidence for this from various sources (newspapers, magazines, TV, some public debate etc)
- What does the literature in economics say? Briefly mention the main contributions (more details on the literature in the next session, here just some highlights). You just want to show that what you are addressing is still an open question (i.e. existing literature contrasting conclusions, or not appropriate analysis, or different countries).
- Your contribution: summarise what you are doing, what your main findings are and how you contribute to the existing literature, stress the novelty of your paper.
- Layout of the remainder of the paper.

2. Literature review

In theory you should be able to use the document you have already written for your first assessment.

Try not only to summarise the relevant papers but critically analyse them with respect to your paper.

3. Empirical specification

- Write down your model, you may have more than one version of it. Explain why this is your model, explain your dependent and main independent variables.
- What do you expect from your model(s)?
- Discuss of possible econometric issues related to it (endogeneity, possible bias etc) and explain how you are dealing with them.

4. The data

- Describe your dataset, which are the variables you have included, time period, unit of measure etc. Carefully cite the source of your data. If you have carried out your own survey, explain in details your sample, your questionnaire, issues etc.
- Prepare a table of summary statistics (you should have one ready already, which you have use for your first presentation). Include basic summary statistics, number of observations, mean, standard deviation, min and max values etc.

Discuss and present you raw data. Possible present some correlation tables. Say if you can already see some preliminary supporting evidence for you claim.

- Carefully describe all your variables, the unit of measure, current or constant prices, as a ratio of GDP etc...

5. Results

Prepare one or more tables with your main results, where you report your regressions coefficients (standard errors or t statistics in brackets), R2, number of observations, the test you have carried out. The format of the table should look like this:

Table 1. Dependent variable: XX

	Specifica tion 1	Specification 2	Specification 3	Specification 4	Specification X
Expl.var1	Coeff. (t stat, or standard errors)				
Expl.var2					
Expl.var3					
...					
Expl.varn					
Observations					
R2					
Test1					
Test2					
Test3					
Textm					

Carefully explain the format of the table(s) , and the tests you are reporting.

Present your results, say if the variable is significant or not, comment on the signof the coefficients and discuss whether or not you have found the expected sign or not. If not try to explain why you think this has happened.

Summarise your result at the end and give a general overview of your results.

5.1 Robustness check

You may want to run some more regressions to show that your results are robust (general true).

You may do that by using a different dataset, or running the regressions for a subset of observations.

In general you want to think of some tests to confirm your previous results.

6. Conclusions

- Summarise what you have done and what your main findings are. Stress your contributions and mention the weaknesses of the paper.
- Say why your contribution is important and who may benefit from your results (for example your results may have some policy implication).
- Say what you (or someone else) may want to do in the future to improve your analysis.

References

List of the papers, books etc you have cited in your paper.

Example of format:

Anselin, L., Bera, K., Florax, R., Yoon, M. (1996) "Simple diagnostic tests for spatial dependence," *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 26, pp. 77-104.

Appendix

You may want to include some tables that you have not included in the main part.