Dissertation Outline Example

- Front Matter
  - Title Page
  - Copyright Notifications (not required)
  - Signature Page
  - Acknowledgements (not required)
  - Dedication (not required)
  - Abstract
  - Table of contents
  - List of tables (only if tables are used)
  - List of figures (only if figures are used)

- Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Statement of the problem
  - Research questions
  - Purpose and significance of study
  - Local context
  - Conceptual framework
  - Review of relevant terms
  - Organization of study

- Chapter 2: Literature Review
  - Introduction
  - Theoretical framework
  - Review of literature strand 1, 2, 3, etc.
  - Summary and implications of literature review

- Chapter 3: Methodology
  - Research questions
  - Research design
  - Setting
  - Overall and Sample Populations
• Access to site (gaining access and entry, obtaining participant participation, exiting, etc.)
• Value of specific methodology
• Instrumentation (reliability and validity)
• Data collection procedures
• Data analysis procedures
• Validity of interpretation (applicability, consistency, trustworthiness)
• Limitations and delimitations
• Ethical considerations

• Chapter 4: Findings
  o Data descriptions
  o Data analysis
    ▪ Results for total sample, subsample 1, subsample 2, across subsamples, etc.
    ▪ Results vis-à-vis initial research questions

• Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Implications
  o Discussion of findings
    ▪ Subsections for findings for each specific research question
  o Limitations of findings
  o Researcher comments (e.g., personal reflections on research methodology; reflections on impact on research site/individuals
  o Relationship of findings to previous literature
  o Implications for future practice in local context
  o Implications for future research

• Reference List
• Appendices
  o IRB forms (e.g., informed consent forms)
  o Instrumentation