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What is a dissertation or thesis?

- A thesis is the final research paper for a masters/doctoral degree.
- A dissertation is a term sometimes used interchangeably with the term thesis.

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STEP 1 Research your unique topic, within a credible source.

HOW?

- Begin with the Keyword Search.
- Click "Full text" or "Doctoral Dissertations only" to limit results.
- Filter by Subject and Publication Date to get the latest titles.

A screenshot of the ProQuest search interface. The search term is 'blended learning'. There are 113,393 results. The results are sorted by 'Relevance'. The 'Limit to' section has 'Full text' checked. The 'Publication date' section shows a bar chart for the range 1891 - 2023 (decades). The 'Subject' section lists categories like 'educational technology (6,653)', 'higher education (6,271)', 'american history (5,477)', 'womens studies (5,213)', and 'sociology (5,117)'. Callout letters A, B, and C are placed over the search bar, the 'Full text' checkbox, and the 'Publication date' filter respectively.

STEP 2 Find relevant information. No need to read it all.

HOW?

- Click "Abstract/Details" to get a brief description.
- Use the Table of Contents to find relevant chapters.
- Search the Full Text—CTRL 'F' within the PDF.
- Look at Tables and Figures to locate results data.

A screenshot of a PDF document viewer. The document is titled 'Table of Contents'. The table of contents lists various sections and their page numbers: List of Tables (iv), List of Figures (v), Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study (1), Introduction (1), Background (1), Problem Statement (9), Purpose of the Study (12), Research Questions (13), Theoretical Framework (13), Nature of the Study (15), and Operational Definitions (16). Callout letters A, B, and C are placed over the 'Abstract/Details' tab, the 'Table of Contents' title, and the 'Full text - PDF' tab respectively.



Learn the language!

- Make a list of the new words and definitions.
- Use this terminology in future searches to get super-targeted results.



Be careful with plagiarism!

- All direct quotes must be cited.
- Information can be paraphrased but will still need a citation.



STEP 3 Check “References” to find books and articles to build out your bibliography.

HOW?

- A** Click on hyperlinks to go directly to additional references.
- B** Click on “Cited by” to see what articles and books also referenced this thesis.
- C** See “Related Items” to locate more relevant sources.
- D** Save and curate your references to generate your own bibliography.

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- 3.** **Designing Effective Feedback Processes in Higher Education: A Learning-Focused Approach**
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