SUGGESTED COMPONENTS OF A THESIS OR DISSERTATION

I. INTRODUCTION
   Purpose of the study
   Background of the problem
   Statement of the problem
   Significance of the study
   Research questions
   Summary of the introduction/overview of following chapters

II. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE
   Organization of the review
   Analysis and synthesis
   Summarize, strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in the literature
   Proposed study
   Definition of variables and their relationships
   Summary of proposed study

III. CONCEPTUAL/THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
   Statement of Research Questions
   Hypotheses

IV. METHODOLOGY
   Design of the study
   Description of the setting
   Sampling procedures
   Human subjects/consent
   Description of the instruments
   Data collection procedures
   Statistical analysis
   Summary of methods

V. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS
   Present data for the research questions
   Summary of findings

VI. DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS OF FINDINGS
   Compare how the study does/does not support the literature
   Limitation of the study
   Conclusions based on the findings
   Explain how the findings can be used to enhance the discipline

*Taken from a School of Social Work handout and a Department of Political Science handout.