How to write a Dissertation Chapter.

Introduction – In this part of your dissertation you will introduce the topic that you will talk about for the next chapter – i.e. Islam. Introduce the topic and its relevance within the dissertation as a whole. Justify why you have chosen to study this particular part. Signpost the rest of the chapter – what you will talk about and what conclusion you will come to. Perhaps demonstrate different arguments using another historian and then say you will demonstrate that claim to be false. Talk about primary and secondary literature you will use in general terms. Finish the introduction with a definitive argument – your overall argument.

Paragraphs – You’ll do this like an actual 2,500 word essay. Each paragraph will have a topic sentence and you will discuss the topic that you choose in that paragraph. The next paragraph and so on will add to your overall argument.

Topic Sentence – Make sure you have a judgement in this.
Argument – Why it supports the overall argument
Evidence
Historians back it up
Historians who disagree
Why disagreement doesn’t work and your argument is more valid.
State argument again.

You won’t do this for every paragraph, but it’s a general guideline.

If you do not have enough evidence, or it does not fit your overall argument, scrap it. It’s not worth putting in information that is not necessary. It’s a waste of words and will reduce your overall mark.

End – Before the conclusion you want a ‘discussion’ or ‘findings’ in your chapter. The discussion will use the points you have used before to discuss or talk about previous points you have made. This will be a discussion of your own research in relation to the wider context and wider issues you are talking about. Also show limitations on your viewpoint and your findings, potentially suggesting where more research can be done in the future. Talk about the research’s importance in terms of wider context, theory you employ, practice and way research is used or gathered.

Conclusion – Very briefly, sum up the discussion you have had. This will look similar to the intro, but be more definitive.