# Writing in ECS for projects and dissertations

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| **Section** | **Suggested content** | **Notes (add your own)** |
| **Abstract** | This is the way the world is  This is what is wrong with the World  Here is my idea/innovation/insight  This is what I found |  |
| **Introduction** | Provides the reader with an explanation of what the report will contain (overview and structure) |  |
| **Background** | Explains the context of the work  Literature review  Review of any software to explain motivation and subsequently for evaluation | Papers still exist, so you refer to these in the present tense |
| **Method** | An account in the past tense of what you did to create the artefact.  An account of any testing or user evaluation | Think software engineering. You should fully document the process using accepted methodologies  Provides evidence of the development process. |
| **Discussion** | A step by step review of the achievements itemised in method  An evaluation of the system as a whole in the context to the literature review and background research into software systems  A reflective review of the process of working on the project  Analysis on any evaluation and testing regime | Effectively the evaluation part of your project |
| **Conclusion** | Claims for achievements of the system as a whole  Highlighting any key learnings  Suggestion of any future works and developments |  |
| **References** | List of all the citations from the text |  |
| **Bibliography** | Any general sources which were used | E.g. general books on writing, surveys etc which you used but which you did not explicitly cite in the text |
| **Appendices** | Evidence of all the claims you are making in the text |  |

Marks are allocated across six categories

* **Management** – evidence it with a project plan, and discussion as to how you kept to plan. Can include a risk analysis
* **Technical approach** – evidence it with good software engineering, clear statement of methodology, evidence of any technical decisions you needed to make and justification.
* **Testing and Evaluation** – evidence that you took a rigorous approach to testing etc ( mostly in method and discussion section)
* **Achievement** – aim to show how it has been implemented/ why it should be implemented
* **Writing** – well structured, free of errors, appropriate use of diagrams, tables etc. References cited and correct use of reference protocols
* **Understanding** – report shows that you understood what you are doing and your achievements