

Example 1

Dissertation

FEMALE Police Officers or Female *POLICE* Officers: An Exploration of Public Perceptions of Policing and Gender

Key points to note:

INTRODUCTION CHAPTER

The traditional view of policing is that it is heavily reliant on **attributes that are associated with masculinity, such as strength and physical fitness, therefore it is perceived to be a male profession which remains, to some extent, dominated by men ()**. The impression of police work as 'men's work' depicts the policewoman, as **Brown and Heidensohn (2000) argue**, as the ultimate oxymoron, meaning female officers have to fight for acceptance into, **what Rabe-Hemp (2008) terms** as 'an all-boys club'. The acceptance of female police officers, both within the police and from a public perspective, is a thoroughly researched topic and although women experience similar resistance in a number of male-dominated occupations, perceptions of female police officers is particularly important due to policing's emphasised involvement with public interaction.

This writer establishes the context by immediately **linking into the key debates and views** relating to the research topic about policing and gender. They could add a **(multiple reference)** at the end of the first sentence to indicate where this traditional view is identified

When females entered the police force a century ago, they had restrictions imposed upon them that did not apply to men in terms of what operations they could undertake as well as how long they could serve for (Dinsmor and Goldsmith, 2010). This treatment of female officers was a reflection of the gendered attitudes of society at the time. However, with the passage of time, and the enforcement of regulations (Dinsmor and Goldsmith, 2010), females still do not comprise an equal proportion of policing roles to males and they still appear to experience different treatment to that of their male counterparts. Policing requires the cooperation and acceptance of the public it governs to operate effectively; therefore, public acceptance of female officers is essential to their complete integration into law enforcement.

The writer provides further context to the study by adding a historical perspective. This allows for comparison with the more current situation.

The writer then has a clear link sentence that connects to the specific aim and areas of inquiry she explores.

This dissertation will focus on these public opinions as it aims to explore the differing perceptions the public may have of male and female police officers. To achieve this aim, three aspects will be explored which are, differences in gender identification of male and female officers, differences in attitudes of male and female participants towards male and female officers, and differences in

The writer then clearly states the aim of the study and how the aim will be met.

perceptions across age groups.

To enable this, a literature review will be undertaken, and a research study will be carried out and discussed. The literature review will be included to add context to this dissertation by offering some background to the field of study and will discuss three areas relevant to the current research; public perceptions of female police officers, perceptions of female police officers within the police, and perceptions of female police officers as portrayed on television. Following on from this, the current research methodology will be explained and justified, with the inclusion of its theoretical grounding, research method and research analysis. The results of this quantitative research will be presented via three sections, each of which is an area of interest to this study. To offer some perspective to this research a discussion will take place following the research findings which will explore the results in a qualitative manner to examine any themes that emerge and to gain a deeper insight into what the differing perceptions of the police by gender are. In this chapter the results will be split into themes and discussed in relation to the relevant existing literature before the limitations of this research are acknowledged, recommendations for further

The writer summarises the content of each main chapter

It may be that this is written nearer to the completion of a fuller draft of the dissertation when the major content of each chapter is clear.

research are made, and a conclusion is met.