In *Writing the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: Entering the Conversation*, Irene L. Clark offers this explanation of the dissertation genre:\(^1\):

\textbf{A thesis/dissertation begins by identifying a problem or issue that is well defined and worth addressing. The problem or issue leads to a research question and a consideration of how it may be answered}

She elaborates:

- A thesis/dissertation is a persuasive scholarly document that presents an argument and supports it with evidence. Its goal is to convince a committee and other members of the academic community of the following:
  - The problem, situation, or issue is significant to the profession.
  - The problem, situation, or issue has not been treaded adequately in previous scholarly work (although it probably has been addressed before).
  - The author has created or discovered a credible strategy or direction for addressing the problem, situation or issue.

She suggests keeping the following details in mind as you work:

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\(^1\) The following passages quoted from *Writing the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: Entering the Conversation* (Prentice Hall, 2007) by Irene L Clark.
• My tentative title is:

• My topic is:

• The problem or question I plan to address is:

• My main argument is:

• The method or approach I plan to use is:

• [The relationship of this chapter to my main argument is]:

• [The relationship of this chapter to my main argument is]: