Completing Your Thesis: Workshop 1

Creating an Action Plan and Managing Writer’s Block
Wednesday, February 6, 2019

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Introductions & Resource Brainstorm

Name, department, thesis topic (or rough idea), expected date of completion

What is a thesis?

What campus resources have you utilized to start making progress on your thesis?

What other resources have you utilized to start making progress on your thesis?
Graduate Studies Office - The Keeper of Thesis Writing

Instructions

Creating an action plan begins with compiling the resources at your disposal: https://www.fullerton.edu/graduate/current_students/thesis.php

Enacting an action plan begins with utilizing the resources at your disposal!

Completing an action plan begins with forming good habits and communication!
Developing Good Habits (NOW!)

Think of your action plan as a road map to the completion of your Master’s thesis.

When does your road trip end?

Working backwards from your anticipated date of completion will help you strategize and break down your road trip into realistic and actionable tasks.

ACTIVITY: Action Plan Template (Example)

Think about the short term goals that will help you achieve your long term goal of completing, defending, and filing your thesis. What constraints exist around these goals? What resources will help you overcome any obstacles? When is your target date of completion?
Have you read a Master’s Thesis?
Writing...writing...I should be writing...

What are some obstacles when it comes to writing?

- Procrastination
- Perfectionism
- Fear/Imposter syndrome
- Life “stuff”
- Isolation
- Stress
- Idea that we are “supposed to know how to write”
The Thesis Writing Process

Your mantra: “the best thesis is a done thesis” (- everyone who has ever written a thesis)

Once you have your action plan and your resources ready to go, it’s time to write!

Ask yourself:

- Who will read my work?
- Who or what will keep me accountable?
- Who is helping/hindering me in the writing process? How do I navigate/negotiate this hindrance?
Before You Tackle Writer’s Block

Know that “the best thesis is a done thesis” (again...mantra)

Believe that your faculty are here to support you (we are!)

- communicate with your advisor, committee, mentor, peers

You won’t revolutionize the field...at least not yet (keep things in perspective)
Tips/Takeaways

“Freewriting” or journaling about your research, everyday for a minimum of 30 minutes

Accountability

Set practical goals

Reflect on your writing (and time spent writing)

Make sacrifices

Tell others about your writing and the writing process
Next Steps

Workshop #2: Wednesday, February 13, 2:30-3:30 (PLS-360)

Preparing for your Proposal: Focusing on the Next Step

If you are already in the writing process consider joining the Graduate Student Thesis Support Group (Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00pm in PLS-360)