

# Thesis Writing/Defence

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# Thesis writing can be enjoyable!



# Introduction

- ❖ Writing in order to think, rather than thinking in order to write
- ❖ Your topic your companion- choose a topic that interests you
- ❖ Begin and continue working on your thesis 30 minutes or 1 hour every day
- ❖ Attitude change-imagine yourself a scholar!

# Beginning

- ❖ Best way to begin is not sitting in the library and writing chpt 1-approach your thesis through imagination-in your mind.
- ❖ Develop passion, curiosity and questions about your thesis.
- ❖ Are you writing thesis for purpose of the masters-professional growth-as means to an end or an end in itself-but remember it can help one learn producing scholarly work.
- ❖ Discuss with colleagues, advisor, spouses etc.

# Choosing a Topic

- ❖ What do you want from your thesis? Curiosity, passion, & ownership.
- ❖ Writing a thesis is very much like being in a long-term r/ship: there are likely to be some very good times and some perfectly dreaded ones, and it helps if you like what you've chosen.
- ❖ This r/ship requires you to give up a lot of other pieces of your life, work tirelessly and post-phone or differ gratification.

# Choosing a Topic Cont..

- ❖ Your advisor can also help you choose a topic.
- ❖ He/she can help you clarify and interrogate your ideas.
- ❖ Choose your topic based on your area of specialization.
- ❖ Course work is a source of a topic-which particular courses, assignments, projects, presentation held your interests, or what interests you in other peoples' work.

# Choosing an Advisor

- ❖ This is one of the most important decisions you (we) make in the thesis writing.
- ❖ Ideally, your advisor would be a mentor, expert, coach, editor, counselor, guide, teacher, and someone to encourage you and not to discourage.
- ❖ The advisor can help or hinder thesis writing, but can't make it happen.
- ❖ For PhD in some countries, candidates have committees.
- ❖ You have to use your advisor well. Don't write a thesis that belong to the advisor-don't be railroaded.

# Choosing advisor cont..

- ❖ Establish clear guidelines with advisor e.g. what time to call, regular meetings and timelines.
- ❖ Be realistic about what your responsibilities are and don't expect him/her to think for you or work for you.
- ❖ Don't through tantrums; remember your advisor is there to help you improve your work and not to rubber stamp it. Let your advisor tell you the truth the way he sees it.
- ❖ Stay in-charge of your own writing; remember you are the owner. Speak up but politely and firmly.



# Doing Research & Thesis Writing

- ❖ How you do research varies depending on field and topic.
- ❖ Know the gate-keepers in the field.
- ❖ As you collect data make notes.
- ❖ All the researchers have to transform the results/data from the field into written form.
- ❖ Research requires that you engage your mind in the material you collect; interrogate it, ask it questions and act upon it.
- ❖ Read other peoples' thesis to get ideas, but avoid the temptation to copy.
- ❖ You begin writing by making a mess, then you start to clean it up.
- ❖ Avoid assigning yourself more than you can accomplish.

# Doing Research & Thesis Writing

- ❖ The best way to get into a good writing rhythm is to ***write every day***. Create a writing addiction.
- ❖ Avoid lifting other peoples' work-plagiarism is serious academic crime.
- ❖ Have deadlines.
- ❖ There are always interruptions-external-work stations, pregnancies & internal-ambivalence, static, writing scared.
- ❖ In dealing with interruptions, try not to panic-see help from the support group and close people.
- ❖ Keep a hard copy of every version of your thesis.
- ❖ Learn computers.

# Thesis Support Group

- ❖ Choose your support group carefully e.g. people you trust, classmates, hardworking.
- ❖ SG offers good company-you are in the same boat, supportive atmosphere, reliable people who can encourage, empathize, criticize, cheer you, push you, readers, edit for you and maybe you can reciprocate.
- ❖ Avoid doing the same work or copying and pasting.
- ❖ SG should be focused and have a group leader.

# Thesis writing is a lonely process.



# SG-Happy moments



# Thesis Defence

- ❖ Avoid hitting the wall; ‘so near yet so far’
- ❖ Thesis defence-investigate what to expect during the defence. Ask your advisor, other students or lecturers.
- ❖ Defences are not mere formalities..someone can fail.
- ❖ Defence is also a test for the advisor.
- ❖ If you advisor has been serious reading your thesis, then its likely that you will pass.
- ❖ Its rare for the thesis to be accepted without revisions.
- ❖ Sometimes you feel like not parting with your topic-you’ve been buddies.
- ❖ Welcome to a very often boring, old, odd company of highly educated women & men!
- ❖ CELEBRATE! Allow yourself to indulge in the pleasure of a major accomplishment.

# The Best Thesis is a Done Thesis



# Conclusion

- ❖ Don't hire someone to write for you. You will feel guilty for the rest of your life.
- ❖ Writing requires dedication and seriousness.
- ❖ You can have your thesis published as a book or article.
- ❖ Ask questions and consult.
- ❖ Read widely.
- ❖ Don't stop there-go for the PhD!



ALL THE BEST

*THANK YOU ALL FOR  
ATTENDING AND  
GOD BLESS!*