

How I Wrote 54 Pages of My Dissertation Proposal in April

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10 Tips and Tricks

1. Only writing is writing
 Sharpening pencil is not writing. Finding paper is not writing.
 Booting your computer or organizing computer files is not writing.
 Thinking about what you are going to write is not writing.
 Reading dissertations and articles is not writing.
2. Make a title page. One easy page without much thinking.
3. Look at samples on www.andrews.edu/leaderpart. Make an outline. Start filling in text.
4. Use APA format. Pages add up faster when double spaced.
5. Track your progress. Start & End time. Word count. Page Count. See sample Excel spreadsheet below.
6. Dive into Chapter 2 Literature Review. See my literature review process.
7. Write hard stuff first. Save easy writing for later in the month when you are tired.
8. When you get bogged down, find a section to write that flows for you.
9. After writing 45 pages make a Table of Contents. This can be done automatically with Word when headings are marked appropriately. Helps organize thoughts.
10. Only after the hard writing is done, mine your previous papers for applicable paragraphs and references that could be used with simple editing. Be sure to save this for last and watch the pages multiply.

Track Progress in Excel Spreadsheet

Date	Start Time	End Time	Start Words	End Words	Added Words	Topic	words /min	# of pages
Before April			0	1263	1263	Dissertation Proposal	8	7
4/9/2010	5:00	13:30	1263	3000	1737	Dissertation Proposal	3	14
4/11/2010	7:00	12:00	3000	4185	1185	Dissertation Proposal	4	17
4/13/2010	8:00	10:00	4185	4247	62	Dissertation Proposal	1	19
4/14/2010	7:00	12:00	4247	5274	1027	Dissertation Proposal	3	20
4/16/2010	8:18	9:16	5274	5449	175	Dissertation Proposal	3	26
4/16/2010	9:30	10:30	5449	5652	203	Dissertation Proposal	3	27
4/16/2010	3:30	6:11	5652	6334	682	Dissertation Proposal	4	28
4/18/2010	7:58	9:56	6334	6850	516	Dissertation Proposal	4	29
4/18/2010	10:20	11:29	6850	7318	468	Dissertation Proposal	7	30
4/18/2010	12:31	14:46	7318	7801	483	Dissertation Proposal	4	31
4/18/2010	20:22	21:21	7801	7872	71	Dissertation Proposal	1	32
4/19/2010	8:00	9:00	7872	7980	108	Dissertation Proposal	2	33
4/20/2010	9:05	9:55	7980	8128	148	Dissertation Proposal	3	34
4/21/2010	6:40	10:31	8128	8925	797	Dissertation Proposal	3	42
4/22/2010	20:37	21:53	8925	9553	628	Dissertation Proposal	8	43
4/25/2010	10:30	12:07	9553	9985	432	Dissertation Proposal	4	44
4/25/2010	12:40	14:10	9985	10336	351	Dissertation Proposal	4	45
4/25/2010	14:45	15:20	10336	10503	167	Dissertation Proposal	5	46
4/25/2010	17:21	18:18	10503	10807	304	Dissertation Proposal	5	47
4/27/2010	7:30	9:00	10807	11000	193	Dissertation Proposal	2	49
4/27/2010	12:00	13:00	11000	11462	462	Dissertation Proposal	8	50
4/27/2010	17:35	21:27	11462	13157	1695	Dissertation Proposal	7	58
4/29/2010	22:17	0:04	13157	14219	1062	Dissertation Proposal	10	61

Literature Review Process

1. Search appropriate databases (depends on the topic)
[Dissertations & Theses](#) (Proquest)
[Sage Publications](#)
 - Look up references within relevant papers on Google Scholar
2. Review Title
3. Review Abstract
4. Download citation
5. Download full article/dissertation. Save as: Author year key words from title
 Easy to go back and reread article/dissertation any time.
6. Read/Scan article/dissertation
7. Write a paragraph review of the article/dissertation.
8. Write longer paragraphs for most relevant references and shorter for less.

SAMPLE REFERENCES

Karim, Samina Zaman (2002). Reconfiguration and innovation: How acquisitions and internal development reshape firms. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Michigan, United States -- Michigan. Retrieved April 4, 2010, from Dissertations & Theses: Full Text.(Publication No. AAT 3068898).

Krause, D. E., Gebert, D., Kearney, E. (2007). Implementing Process Innovations: The Benefits of Combining Delegative-Participative With Consultative-Advisory Leadership. *Journal of Leadership and Organizational Studies* 14: 16-25.

SAMPLE FILE NAMES

Karim 2002 Reconfiguration innovation acquisitions.pdf
 Krause 2007 Implement process innovations.pdf

SAMPLE WRITTEN SUMMARY

Karim (2002) studied how acquisition and internal development reshape firms. She found that internal development groups have more innovation than those that are acquired. However, acquisitions can be reconfigured faster.

Krause, Gebert, and Kearney (2007) researched the benefits of combining delegative-participative leadership with consultative-advisory leadership. Delegative-participative leadership was positively related to process innovation. Consultative-advisory leadership was also positively related to process innovation. They found that a successful implementation of process innovation requires a holistic approach to leadership.