“Most written texts do not emerge fully formed; they are crafted, composed and unfold through a process of transforming ideas into language.”

— Anthony Paré, 2007
ORGANISE YOUR RESEARCH

1. Use your thesis as your central organising principle
2. Develop good writing habits
   - Write regularly
   - Draft, revise, edit, proofread
   - Get feedback
3. Find good examples to model

Filter your research

Research Aims
Research Question
Thesis or Hypothesis
 Provisional Title

It's easier to manage your project when you have a clear idea of what your research focus is

From a previous workshop
What makes a thesis?

A thesis is not a thesis without the expression of a central argument.

A thesis "represents the expression of a singular and embracive idea that permeates all aspects of the thesis production."
- Cantwell (2006, p. 182)

Example of a thesis statement

**RESEARCH QUESTION**
How do WA parents deal with the process of home schooling children with intellectual disabilities?

**THESIS**
WA parents deal with the process of home schooling their children with intellectual disabilities through 'progressive modification.'

ORGANISE YOUR RESEARCH...
1. Use your thesis as your central organising principle
Your ‘thesis’ should appear in your...
Title and abstract
Intro or first chapter
Conclusion or last chapter

It should inform the choices you make when...
WRITING YOUR LIT. REVIEW
Obtaining and interpreting data
Selecting primary and secondary material

Your thesis should permeate the whole study

Intro Structure

Establish a research territory
Establish a niche for your research
Occupy that niche

* Remember: provide a summary of the structure of your dissertation or thesis

WORK DOOR CLOSED AND DOOR OPEN

How do you write?

- How often? When? Where?
- What approaches do you use?
- What is effective? What would you like to do better?
“Writer’s block is nothing more than the behaviour of not writing. Saying that you can’t write because of writer’s block is merely saying that you can’t write because you aren’t writing.”

– Paul Silvia, How to write a lot (2007, 45-7)

“Write with the door closed, rewrite with the door open.”

[Writing, door shut…]

“It’s the story undressed, standing up in nothing but its socks and undershorts.”

– Stephen King, On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

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<tr>
<th>How to get unblocked</th>
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<td>Generative writing, free-writing, blind-writing</td>
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<td>Outlining</td>
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<td>Mind-mapping</td>
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Why do writers get blocked?

- Believe they must work out exactly what they think before writing
- Struggle to work out a point logically
- Feel overwhelmed by the material
- Want to be sure before they write
Good writing is good rewriting

Advanced Writing Workshop, Friday 12pm Rm 2202

Stay focused by asking...

- What my thesis? What's the story I'm telling?
- What is the purpose of this chapter/section/paragraph?
- What is its function in the story?
- What points should it contain and in what order?

Imagine you're an examiner...

- What elements would you look for?
- What attributes or features would you reward?
- What would annoy you?

FOLLOW A GOOD EXAMPLE
Look for ‘style’

Determine discipline styles and conventions

Find examples academic writing styles you like

Develop your own style guide

Sentence templates

EG: Highlighting inadequacies of previous studies
- Most studies in the field of X have only focused on...
- Such expositions are unsatisfactory because they...
- Half of the studies evaluated failed to specify whether...

See www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/

Activity: Thinking Bundles

Upcoming Honours & Masters workshops

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 31 March 12pm</td>
<td>Communicate your research to an audience</td>
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<td>Thurs 2 April 1pm</td>
<td>STUDY BREAK</td>
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<td>Tues 14 April 12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 16 April 1pm</td>
<td>Practising your seminar presentation</td>
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PREPARE TO WRITE...

1. Use your thesis as your central organising principle
2. Develop good writing habits
   - Write regularly
   - Draft, revise, edit, proofread
   - Get feedback
3. Find good examples to model
4. Other ideas?

Coursework Research Forum
http://www.student.uwa.edu.au/1886688
Free Study Advice

**WRITESmart**

Every day, 10am-12pm.
Reid Library, Ground floor.

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**References & additional resources**

Azariadis, M. (2008), *How to Write a Better Thesis*, workshop booklets from previous research skills workshops run by the Graduate Research School at The University of Western Australia, Crawley on 11 April. Available from: www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/students/resources/workshops/booklets


Haq, K. (2009), *Academic Writing in Practice*, workshop booklets from previous research skills workshops run by the Graduate Research School at The University of Western Australia, Crawley on 2 October. Available from: www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/students/resources/workshops/booklets


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