



You can research forever. Use these tricks and tips to get writing regularly.

Technology to help you write while researching:

- Zotero, End Note, Ever Note
- Scrivener

Take notes while you research. Make annotations for every reading. Be sure to note arguments, sub points, method, and how you are thinking about the piece of research. It's easy to underline or highlight when you read, but usually, these techniques will require you to return and take notes anyway.

Keep a thesis journal (write often and with low stakes):

- Write for 15 minutes every day, record your thoughts and feelings
- Reflect on big picture questions: Why am I writing this? What am I learning right now? Where do I find myself getting stuck? What new questions do I have at this point?

Keep a research to do list. As you write, it will be tempting to stop when you notice a [what's that word again? Writing in parentheses is helpful for avoiding the need to pick the perfect word] gap in your knowledge. Instead of stopping, keep a journal/google doc/whatever where you can take note of what you need to go back and research without stopping the flow you have in your writing.

Skim a recent thesis in your department. Read as a *writer*. Take notice of the structure, style, and balance of depth and breadth. Based on your skimming (three chapters at most, introductions included), create small writing goals for yourself.

- Introduction to your chapter
- Literature review
- Description of method or approach taken in the chapter
- Analysis of primary materials/data
- Conclusion of chapter
- Links between chapters

Remember, once you are 60% through your research, you are ready to start writing the chapter.