

David Romer's Rules for Making It Through Graduate School and Finishing Your Dissertation

- Don't come out a thorough and comprehensive search of the literature; **just write.**
- Don't clutter up your mind with other activities; **just write.**
- Don't attempt to make sure that every page you write shows the full extent of your professional skills; **just write.**
- Don't write a well-organized, well-integrated, unified dissertation; **just write.**
- Don't think profound thoughts that shake the intellectual foundations of the discipline; **just write.**
- If you don't have a paper started by the spring of your third year, **be alarmed.**
- If you don't have a paper largely drafted by the fall of your fourth year, **panic.**
- Have **three new ideas** a week while you are getting started.
- Don't try to game the profession, **work on what interests you.**
- Good papers in economics have **three characteristics**:
 - A **viewpoint.**
 - A **lever.**
 - A **result.**