

FOAR 705 Scoping Exercise Week 3

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Jobs

In preparation for the writing of my thesis the jobs that I must undertake will include but not be limited to:

- Collecting and cataloguing various relevant research journals and sources.
- Design my actual thesis and relating study, it will I think be a cross-examination of established sources.
- Ensure a consistency of referencing as well as a higher quality of footnotes perhaps achieved through the use of EndNote.
- Work consciously to improve my writing skills.

Pains

- I have in the past had an unfortunate tendency to leave my assignments to the last minute. This has resulted in lowered marks and higher stress on my part. Upon introspection I have determined this is due an unfortunate habit of mine where once I feel like I'm getting overwhelmed I simply shutdown and leave what I'm doing. It works for the stress but results in my work being last minute and rushed.
- I also have a grand, overarching tendency to make broad, sweeping statements that encompass a great deal and are in fact supported by little actual evidence. This I fell stems from a desire to tell a story with my work rather than have it be a cold, logical argument. It makes for interesting reading but poor academic work.
- Thirdly and possibly responsible for the first two I have a great deal of difficulty with time management. I struggle to allocate enough time to fully understand the content and often find my life interfering with my allotted study time.

Pain Relievers

- In regard to my above issues I propose that I attempt to create a timetable and stick to it as much as possible. This will help me spend an appropriate amount of time on each task as well as help to avoid the last-minute rush. If I can manage this then I will have enough evidence to help me construct a well-reasoned argument. Hopefully it will also help me to clearly delineate between study time and the rest of my life.
- Similarly, to a timetable if I construct a scaffold for my essay ahead of time with headings and sub-headings it would well me to stay on topic and avoid those grand narratives I love so much.

Gains

- I would like to gain an understanding of programs such as EndNote and Excel as I feel this would both help my future research as well as making me more employable in the job market.

Gain Creators

- At this point I shall continue with the Data Carpentry lessons and hone my grasp of the basics, but I hope to expand that knowledge to other more specialized programs as well. After all the more I learn here, the more opportunities will be open to me in the future.