Writing a thesis is like ...

Presented by Cherice Montgomery, Ph.D., BYU

Image: Aneta Blaszcyzk



Where does your study fit in the progression of your domain?

Image: Darrel Willman

Just as all cakes share certain characteristics, all theses follow certain conventions.

Plan for publication!

Before You decide what kind of cake to make....

Image: Roxanne Ready

Before you decide what kind of thesis you want to write ...

READ ABSTRACTS & LIMITATIONS!

Image: Linda Wiseman

Cake Recipes

Cakes we want to bake at home! The most tempting cake recipes on the web.

13,175

Followers

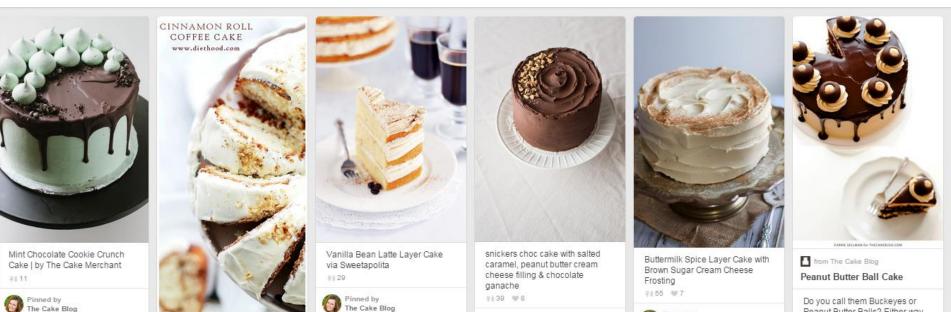
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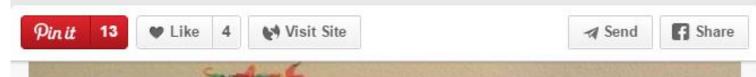
Peanut Butter Balls? Either way

186

Pins







The Prospectus:

Grad students want to tell their committee all about their AMAZING idea for the really cool cake they will make!



Found on 9gag.com



Linda Wiseman @BlessedBeyondCrazy.com • 6 weeks ago

This is a cake.

Image: Linda Wiseman

Prospectus: <u>Methods</u> Matter Most!

Recipe for Writing a Successful Prospectus (Proposal)

•

- **IDEA OUTLINE (Bullet Points)** Purpose
 - **Research Questions**
 - Process
 - Timeline
- **Consult with Committee Members PROSPECTUS DRAFT**
 - Introduction
 - Literature Review
 - **Research Questions**
 - Methods
 - Timeline
- Get Feedback From Committee Chair
- Meet with All Committee Members Think of the Prospectus Defense as a Writing Conference

Abstract

Introduction

Literature Review

Methods

How Grad Students Envision the Prospectus

Image: Teodora Vlaicu

The literature review isn't what makes the cake taste good!

Add only enough "flour" to give substance to your "cake!"

Literature Review

1) Key Concept or Idea 2) Analysis - What does it mean? 3) Interpretation - How does it apply to your study? 4) Transition - How does it connect to the next concept or ídea you plan to address?

Just because ít's an "ingredient…"

...doesn't mean ít should go ín your cake!

Image: <u>Yenhoon</u>

What happens if you put too many eggs into a cake? Be selective in what you include!

0

(Bateman, 1973)

(Bateman, 2015)

Try not to use "eggs" that are too old! In Bateman g Knapp's (2016) study...

Thompson E Martínsen (2016) saíd...

Image: Esmeé Scholte

Do NOT organize your literature review by authors

Combine key <u>ideas</u> to move your argument forward!



Don't

worry about the lumps!

Writing is iterative, the more you "beat" each ingredient in, the smoother the batter will become.

FOCUS ON PROCESS, not PRODUCT!

Don't be overwhelmed by the mess focus on the next 5 mínutes!

Let your chair see the mess!

Keep an audít traíl.

Talk about ít wrítíng ís a socíal process! Writing is messy!

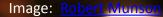
Image: Cintia Martins



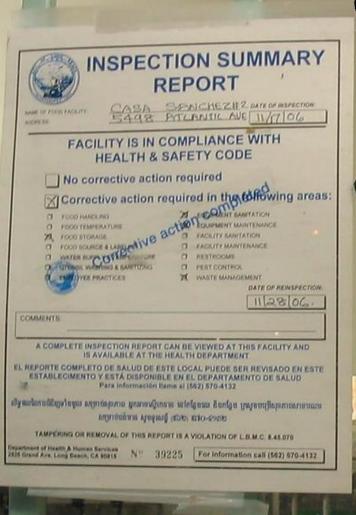
Sadly, a thesis is NOT microwaveable!

Don't be afraid of the heat!

That's what bakes the cake and solidifies your learning!



The cake will look different at each stage, but it is still a cake!



Internal Review Board

WV E





Part G: Biographical Sketch

	BYU IRB USE ONLY:	
ID#		

Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects

Provide the following information for the Primary Investigator/Research Personnel and other significant contributors in the order listed on the IRB Application, page 1. Follow this format for each person. DO NOT EXCEED TWO PAGES PER PERSON.

Part A: Basic Information

From	Follow this format for each person. DO NOT EXCEED TWO PAGES PER PERSON.				
	Part A: Basic Information				
Everyone	1. Name				
On Your	2. CITI Username				
	3. Position Title (PI, co-PI, Research Personnel)				

Part B: Education/Training

Research

Team

(You g

PI)

Institution and Location	Degree (If applicable)	MM/YY	Field of Study

Part C: Research Qualification Statement

(Please provide a brief explanation of your training and research experience that qualifies you to conduct the proposed research.)

Part D: Relevant Publications

Image: BYU's Office of Research & Creative Activities

The Structure of a Thesis

Abstract & Intro. Lit. Review

Methods

Findings

Discussion & Conclusions

Writing a Thesis

Methods Lit. Review Findings Discussion & Conclusions Intro. & Abstract A fallen cake is still worth eating!

"Even íf they don't accept your artícle, at least they stíll read ít!" Luke Plonsky

Image: Tamar Genger

The learning is in the layers! The Care S Feeding of Your Committee

The Care & Feeding of Your Committee

- Make regular appointments
- Come with an agenda
- Limit the length of your meetings
- Do your own legwork
- Express appreciation (a note, a treat)
- Follow up



Obtain High Quality Tools



When is Good Limit e-mail to your committee!

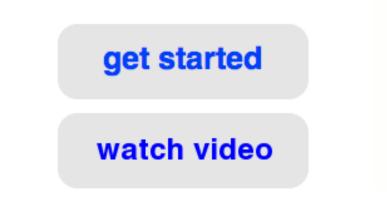
An easy way to find out when everyone is free for your next meeting or event.

- Click the grid for all the times that are good for you - you get a link to email to your invitees.
- 2 They see your proposed times and click on when they are free.
- 3

1

You visit your results page and see when everyone can do.

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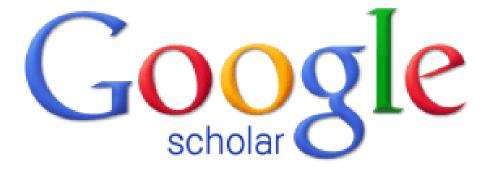
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Articles (include patents) Case law

Stand on the shoulders of giants

Image: Google Scholar



research data.xls

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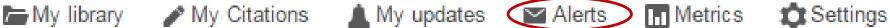
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📁 Adult Learning	▶ The Development and Validation of a Behavior and Attitud Abrami et al. 2008, Oc	Oct 🔺 Paragraph ▾ 둘 둘 들 드 듣 掌 掌 4
🗀 Arabic	Identity of the Teacher-Researcher in Collaborative Action R Banegas 2012	 Things that help -
🗎 Architecture	Revisiting the gap between SLA researchers and language t Block 2000	 Aligned with existing values, past experiences, and perce
🖻 ASL	A Teacher Empowerment through Knowledge Linking Researc Castle et al. 1988	 Not too complex
🗎 Assessment	Barriers - Volume, lack of applicability, ambiguity, lack of	Can be experimented with on limited basis (trjalability)
🗎 Beliefs	Efficacy - Doesn't improve practice	Release time
🗎 Bilingual Ed	Literature review, 27 K-12 schools	Observability – observable results
🖻 🔤 BYU MA Reading List	Positivism - Over-dependence on positivist approach;	Demographic factors, including more education, rationalit
🗎 Change	Reactive v. reflective orientation" (Castle, 1988, p. 3)	science, more social participation, mass media exposure
🗎 Chinese	Skills - Teachers lack skills in understanding and interpreti	Systems view – bird's eye view of system, more access to
🗀 Classroom Management	Things that help -	Packaging and formatting of research
Cognition and Emotion	Time - Locate, understand, evaluate research findings	Admin. And non-teaching specialists
Cognitive Dissonance	[PDF] from ed.gov	Incentives
📁 Cognitive Load	Snapshot	 Structures that promote info. Seeking and usage
🖻 Community	▶ What influences the utilisation of educational research by p Cherney et al. 2012	•
🔤 Compelling	▶ Research and evidence-informed practice: focusing on prac Cordingley March 1,	1, •
🖻 Complexity	▶ Enhancing Knowledge Utilization as a Strategy for School I Cousins and Leith 03/01/19	/1993 •
🔄 Comps	Use of research-based information by school practitioners a Dagenais et al. 2012	•
Conversations	Teachers' Perspectives on Educational Research. Drill et al. 2012	•
Creativity & Innovation	▶ Second language acquisition, teacher education and langua Ellis 2010	•
🔤 Culture	A principled approach to incorporating second language ac Ellis 2011	•
📁 Curriculum	Image: What do you researchers know about language teaching? B Erlam 2008	•
🔄 Dance	Image: The Gap between Theory and Practice: Problems and Possib Hatasa 2013	•
📔 Design	▶ ■ The Use of Research to Improve Professional Practice: a syst HEMSLEY-BROWN Decemb	nbe •
📁 Differentiation	Mind the Gap: How a Project in Alberta Attempted to Narro Light and Gnida 2012	•
📁 Diffusion of Innovations	▶ Teachers using research: What does it mean Livingston and Cas 1989	•
😂 Disciplines	Educational Research in Educational Practice: Predictors of Lysenko et al. 2014	•
🗀 Dispositions	Bridging the gap between research and practice McIntyre 2005	•

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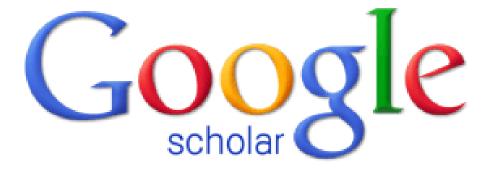
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Image: Cherice Montgomery





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