

Writing Practices for Navigating the Honors Thesis

1. Practices for Sustaining Momentum

- Stop Just Before Completing a Writing Task Each Day
- Construct a Written Dialogue Using Comment Feature
- Treat Dissonance as Generative
- Set up Regular Opportunities for Feedback
- Write First and Read Later
- Cite, Format, and Summarize After Writing
- Read to Write

2. Practices for Establishing Focus

- Consider Your Rhetorical Situation Throughout the Writing Process
- Craft Meta-commentary to Anchor Your Purpose
- Chart the Rhetorical Moves in Your Text
- Analyze the Rhetorical Moves in Model Texts
- Examine the Ways Writers Establish Significance (CARS)

3. Practices for Enhancing Productivity

- Experiment with Dictation Software
- Set Daily Writing Goals in Terms of Page Count (Not Time)
- Carve Out Writing Blocks and Protect Them
- Never a Day without a Line

4. Practices for Maintaining Energy

- Form Writing Groups
- Set Attainable Goals Each Day
- Know Your Limits
- Strive for Balance
- Be Gracious: (Re)Learning to Write is a Lifelong Project

5. Practices for Moving Toward Publication

- Learn to Write Grant Proposals and Conference Proposals
- Learn to Write Research, Teaching, and Revision Cover Letters
- Join a Listserv in Your Area of Specialization
- Read Journals in which You Aim to Publish
- Present Your Work at Regional, National, and International Conferences
- Follow Through on Course Projects and Get Your Work in the Mail