

Tips for Thesis/Advanced Project Writing

On Writing

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On Researching (things you should have done or should be doing)

First, make absolutely sure that you have comprehended very well what is requested of you and focus on what you set out to research. The guidelines have been made available to you. It is important to write well, but that alone will not guarantee a good performance.

As of Module 3, you have been collecting materials, researching and maybe talking to knowledgeable and not so knowledgeable people about your topic. Preparing to write is as vital as writing. By now, you must have:

- written down immediately the brilliant ideas that came to your mind and that you reflected upon later;
- collected the data you needed;
- interviewed relevant people and transcribed your notes;
- read relevant books and articles;
- discussed with peers and advisors your topic and written your notes
- taken notes on everything, including bibliographical information;
- written down quotes you may be able to use in your essay;
- organized your notes, your interviews and quotes;
- recorded, collected and stored all your topic-relevant materials in an organized manner, in accordance with the topic you have decided to work on
- consulted Moodle documents relevant to your topic
- Selected the Moodle documents that you will use;
- Reviewed and selected the presentations made by colleagues and resource persons.
- In a nutshell, researched the essay thoroughly

On Writing — Just Write it!

First make sure you know how long thesis should be (number of words, but remember that the thesis is more about quality than “quantity.” To do so, do a word page count.)

Please use APA Style (compulsory for IPSS and Addis Ababa University.) Strictly follow the document and paragraph formatting, as well as line spacing.

Write a detailed outline determining approximately how many words each section will be. That might change when you are writing.

Write a first draft following your schedule, mini-deadlines and daily targets. Include all citations, quotations and arguments, as well as a bibliography.

Do not sweat “the first draft.” Keep writing, mark unclear and problematic sentences, paragraphs, chapters and ideas, and go back to rewrite them later;

As you write, please pass on your chapters to your supervisor (this is crucial) and peers for rigorous comments;

After the first draft, revisit the contents ensuring that the language used is proper, especially in this age of “texting.” Your transitions must avoid jumping from topic to topic. They must be fluid and seamless, and the reading should be smooth.

Revisit your draft for mechanics. Spelling, grammar and punctuation must be excellent.

Read through your essay for contents. Every sentence, paragraph, section must make sense and your points must be logically ordered.

Be in constant touch with your supervisor/advisor