

## 10 Habits of Being a Successful Graduate Student and Beyond

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1. Enjoy the issues you are interested and find connections among them from your unique perspective.
  - Examine why you are interested in a particular topic and how that topic is relevant to the field of your interest. This will involve persistent yet targeted reading of timely and relevant materials.
2. Find a method that works for you to engage in effective and efficient search of the current and past literature regarding issues you are interested.
  - Avoid being trapped in the seemingly justifiable procrastination behaviors such as “I got to file everything and create a database before I can start writing” or “there must be one more articles out there that will truly change the way I can discuss the issues of my interest.”
3. When you write be purposeful. Every word, phrase, sentence, and paragraph should have a purpose for being there to support the main idea of your arguments.
  - Identify the purpose of your writing, and state it clearly early in the paper. Then explain to the reader how you are going to address the purpose of the paper throughout the paper.
4. Find historical and current conversations in the field that your interests align and identify the audience you are going to present your ideas through your writings or presentations.
  - In your reading and writing this is where you identify seminal and current articles. In your literature review section of your paper help the reader understand what role your ideas are going to take in the professional conversations in the field. However, you need to present this information from your perspective, do not get trapped in the behavior of presenting your literature review in a list format, one fact after another with no connection. The list presentation does not help the reader understand what your arguments are and give them a sense of being lost while working to read the rest of your work.
5. Find your voice and be articulate about your position on issues you are interested and join the conversations within the field.
  - This voice needs to be aligned with the conversation in the field, and introduce your unique perspective. When introducing literature in your field related to your topic, organize your arguments in a manner that best communicates your ideas with your voice.
6. Learn to enjoy sharing your ideas through reading, writing, and presenting your ideas.
  - Your ideas are going to take a role in the professional conversation, and you are not thinking or writing in a vacuum. If you are unable to enjoy sharing your ideas, you will not be able to join the overall conversation.
7. Write and revise regularly, and find a schedule that works for you.

- Schedule deadlines that work for you such as course deadlines and call for proposal deadlines. Writing is kind of like going to the gym. It is easy to get out of it and find more pressing priorities. It also is more enjoyable if you write regularly. Even 15 minutes a day is a good start.
8. Find a support mechanism for your writing that works for you.
    - Peer groups, mentors, and colleagues. These groups can also help you be accountable for meeting your deadlines and meet your goals. Once again, it is like going to the gym.
  9. Find ways that you can gain feedback regarding your writing and the ideas you introduce in them.
    - Gaining feedback about your work can be a very difficult task in terms of taking the feedback, and finding the people who will give you feedback in the first place. You obviously care about your work and gaining feedback can be intimidating, but you need to find people who can help you develop your ideas even further.
  10. Find ways that you can listen to peer/reviewer feedback and truly address them in your revisions.
    - In this process you can prioritize the feedback, but in one way or another you need to address them. You need to truly embrace that all writing is a work in progress and be able to revise as needed. Revision is not about changing word order here and there. Often times it requires you to conceptually challenge yourself figuring out how you can incorporate ideas from others that may or may not fit into your work. When there is no way to incorporate feedback made by others, make a note of why and be prepared to explain to others why it did not fit into your work.

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