

A Guide for Online Graduate Students:
Writing a Great Thesis or Dissertation

Part I: Crafting a Great Proposal

- Chapter 1 An Introduction to Your Desktop Guide
Understanding and becoming proficient in vast array of technological applications as you conduct research for your paper can be overwhelming. This chapter helps you organize your technological tool belt by introducing you to devices at your disposal and how they will be applied to the creation of your dissertation.
- Chapter 2 Aligning All Your Resources
Categorizing all the elements you will use in your thesis or dissertation composition will allow you quick and easy access to your assets. Not only will you need a proper *physical* work space, you will also need a productive *virtual* workspace. This chapter tells you how to choose and organize the proper hardware and software you will use during your research.
- Chapter 3 Finding a Topic, Purpose, and Research Question
Getting on course is often the most difficult task of any journey. This chapter will help you navigate through the maze of information you will need to sort through to help point you in the right direction. At the conclusion of the chapter students will participate in a team activity where they will participate in a group activity to evaluate research questions.
- Chapter 4 A Systematic Review of Literature through Technology
or
Organizing and Writing Review of Literature
Identifying and organizing what other experts have written about your topic is an important aspect of your research. Here we will teach you how to consolidate this material in a rational and productive manner. At the end of the chapter students will participate in an activity where they will review literature based on their interests.

- Chapter 5 Considerations for Choosing a Research Design
Educational topics vary in their subject matter and structure. You will need to select a research method that reflects the characteristics of your topic. In this chapter we will discuss the different research methods to help you intelligently choose how you will design your investigation.
- Chapter 6 Statistics at Your Fingertips (Descriptive, Correlation, t-Test, z-Test)
The basis of scientific investigation is to defend your position using mathematically correct data to communicate your point to your readers. In order to express information about the population that you are studying, descriptive statistics, correlation, t-Test, and z-Tests are explained.
- Chapter 7 Statistics at Your Fingertips (ANOVA & Multiple Linear Regressions)
A deeper explanation of how you will use statistics is provided by clarifying how variations will be used in your research. Logical discussions of the purpose of these statistical tools and their application to educational research are provided. At the end of the chapter students will be given problems to solve.
- Chapter 8 Creating Data Collection Instruments
This chapter provides an overview of the new generation of data collection instruments that are available to researcher today. Discussion of the variety of applications of these instruments is provided. Finally, a dichotomous chart is provided to assist you in selecting the tool that is best suited for your application.
- Chapter 9 Time to Write Chapter III
This section is the foundation of your entire paper. A detailed account of the inventory, structure and style of this chapter is provided. Suggestions are provided on what to include, arrangement, and technique is revealed. At the end of this chapter students will work in groups to review each other's work.