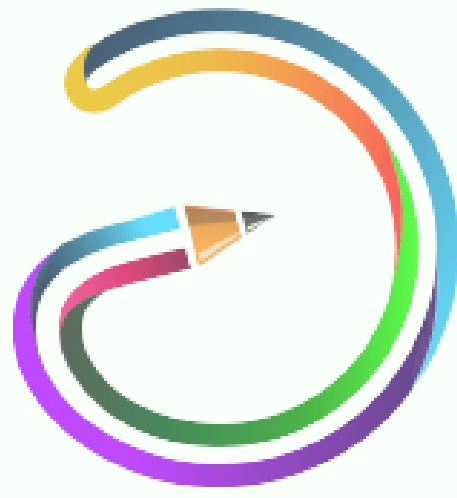




DISSERTATION
SOLUTIONS

The little Book *of Questions* For BIG Wins in thesis writing

A buffet of questions to help
you find writing breakthroughs

www.dissertationsolutions.org

Hey There!

Congratulations, you've just picked up what might become your favorite escape hatch from the dark, echoing hallways of thesis writing.

Because let's be honest—sitting down to *actually* write your thesis? It's not exactly a candlelit evening of inspiration. It's layered. It's complex. And yep, it's *designed* to feel like an uphill climb in fog.

At some point, you'll meet the usual villains: writer's block, idea drought, analysis paralysis. Each one demanding that you somehow, miraculously, find The Answer standing between you and a coherent submission. Sometimes you'll crack it during a chat with a peer, a golden nugget from your supervisor, or a stray comment from an industry expert.

But then there are the moments when it's just you and that blinking cursor. And that's when you'll need a sidekick.

Enter: this pocket-sized powerhouse.

This book is bursting with smart, sharp, no-fluff prompts designed to nudge your brain into action—whether you're refining a chapter or just figuring out what on earth you're trying to say.

There's no set order, no strict system. Just dip in, flip around, and land on the question that jolts your thinking back to life. Keep it by your desk, in your bag, or beside your coffee mug—it's your secret weapon for lunch-break breakthroughs and 2 a.m. sparks of genius alike.

Remember: thesis success isn't a big dramatic epiphany. It's a stack of tiny wins.

Now go on. Flip to a question. Find the light.





#1

Are there
counterarguments
that I need to
address?

Tunnel vision is great, but if you
have spent too much time affirming
your hypothesis, there might be
some theories and frameworks to
consider

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#2

What evidence supports this point?

No, really. Step back and look for the
proof, is this concept true to you
simply because you want it to be?

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#3

If my thesis is an album, who do I need to work with on each song to produce a competitive body of work?

Peers, tutors, mentors, advisors, you choose. Alone, you will be stuck longer than necessary.

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#4

What's the core
idea or argument
of this section?

Are you saying what you think you
are saying? Are your technical or
theoretical anchors well established?

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#5

Who or what is
affected by this
niche and to what
extent?

Sometimes you have undervalued one
stakeholder group and
overrepresented another. Have you
identified, measured, and analyzed
cause and effect?

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#6

What am I taking for granted and what is it costing me?

The privileges you rely on might be
backing you into the corner or
leaving you overexposed in a field.
Paragraph by paragraph, consider
what you are taking for granted and
where it is forcing you go as a
researcher.

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#7

Which voices hold
authority in this
field and can I
comfortably
represent their
stance?

At the very least make sure that you
know and easily narrate what the A-
listers are known for.

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#8

How bad can my
writing get?

*lol, didn't see that one coming
huh?*

Snoop around for articles with poorly
fleshed-out ideas, holes in
argumentation, and theoretical
liberties – then grade your own
writing through the same lens.

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#9

What question
remains
unanswered in this
field and what
components make
it illusive?

Tip: Conference speakers and their corresponding Q&A sessions where folks get grilled is a great place to refresh the questions you are pursuing

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#10

What core
principles are
guiding my
hypothesis?

**Best Practice: Keep it to one page and
see if you can teach one class three
different ways based on that one page.**

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#11

So what?

Sometimes you spend a lot of time pointing out the obvious, revealing the unknown, and highlighting important concepts, but if the cause you are pursuing isn't clear, your thesis might read like a random collection of cool facts and theories.

Find the golden thread and give us a reason to care about this particular collection of data points being assembled in this way.

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#12

Am I clueless or am I just bored?

What was the research development
plan?

How far are you on the list?

What questions have been answered?

Find an intellectual exercise or
community to tap into for more
questions and answers. The motion will
stimulate your intellectual curiosity
and get you to the next milestone.

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#13

What could I
possibly be wrong
about and have I left
room to explore
ideas towards what
might be less
wrong?

Test to see if you have coffee or
Kool-Aid in that mug on your desk.

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#14

What does the
reader know by the
end of this
paragraph that they
didn't know at the
start?

Always hit them with a ta-da! Even if it
is to prove to them that you also know
what they know.

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#15

If each paragraph
were a lecture that I
had to give, what
fundamentals
would I cover?

This is the easiest way to answer the
silent question of “What am I even
talking about”. Use every inch of real
estate (aka word count) wisely.

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#16

If all the papers are
starting to sound
the same, have I
captured the
essence of each
relevant writer?

There has to be at least one thing that
makes each person's perspective stand
out. Find it, explore it, and decide what
it means for the questions you are
investigating.

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#17

What makes a
writer relevant, and
how can I represent
these criteria on
paper?

Tip: Ask the 'elders' in your department
to give you their top 3 great minds in
the field and reasons why.

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#18

Format aside, is the structure of my argument assisting to articulate my point?

You might have great furniture pieces, but if your layout is incongruent, your living room will be uncomfortable to look at and chill in.

Make the reader's life easy, even if you have to get a tutor.

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#19

What are people in
my field tired of
hearing and why is
that perspective so
tiring?

Tease out the cliches and acknowledge
the obvious, show that you have
explored the lay of the land, and have a
clear sight of all the things that
matter.

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#20

How far away from
my proposal have I
drifted and why?

Sometimes you have to stop writing
and launch a search party. Where did
you switch things up and go off the
trail in pursuit of easy and shiny
objects?

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#21

If my thesis were a
10-year old
character, what
would their
personality be like?

Whether you like it or not, the
evaluators will give your research a
character and develop one about you
as the writer as well. Beat them to it!

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#22

What questions do I get when I review a peer's work?

Write down every impression you get, questions you ask, analysis you admire, etc. Then turn around and apply the exact same to your writing.

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#23

What's the weakest part of this draft, and how might you improve it?

You know when you were striving to hit a word count or check a theoretical point.

Highlight your weaknesses in a specific colour and return to them one at a time.

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#24

What are three
perfectly viable
ways to prove my
point and have I
explored them all?

You might be spending too much time
in the research wilderness. Know when
you have proven a point and move on

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#25

What is the history of this niche and how did it come about?

This pie got these slices for a reason,
poke around and find out. The WHY will
sharpen your pattern recognition.

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#26

What kind of
feedback would be
most helpful for
you right now?

Be honest about how far you are, why
you have chosen a specific path, and
where your struggles are – and then
ask for help where help can be found.

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#27

If you had one
more day to revise,
what would you
focus on?

Pick one thing and apply the 1%
improvement rule.

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#28

Can I give a
specific example
to illustrate this
point?

One instance that is well-explained will
save you many sentences of
explanation.

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#29

What changed between my last draft and this one?

If you can't explain the change, you
won't be able to apply the learnings in
other sections and chapters.

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#30

Am I setting up
any questions in
one paragraph
that you answer
in the next?

Join the carts before the train leaves
the station, friend.

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#31

How good can my writing get?

Remember when you wrote that one
thing that convinced you that
academic writing wasn't bad?

Go find it, print it out, and review all
the things that worked about your
analysis and your writing.

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#32

How many more
semesters do you
have in you?

Getting to a resolution might matter
more for your reputation at this point.
Get it done and move on.

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#33

What am I avoiding?

Be honest about the techniques that scare you, the theories that are a little complex, and the bodies of work that bore you. Run towards them aggressively and get them out of the way.

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#34

What is the state on my academic relationships?

Sometimes your writing (or lack thereof) is impacted by the nature of your relationships. Close the laptop and figure out a plan to make things right.

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#35

How many people will care?

The real answer is that very few people will care about the thesis itself. Your evaluators matter the most right now and your research skills will matter in your next professional season.

So display the skill of academic rigor and keep it moving.

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Before You Put The Book Down..

If you've spent time with this book, then you've already done something brave—you've chosen to keep asking questions, even when the answers feel far away. That's the heart of writing, really: trying, stumbling, rethinking, and trying again.

Progress often comes quietly. In the messy drafts. In the reworked sentences. In the moments you sit down even when you're not sure what to say.

Let this book be a reminder that clarity comes through movement, not perfection. Keep it close. Return to it when you're stuck, or just need a nudge to keep moving forward.

Writing is a practice. Learning is a loop. And you're right on track.

*If You Want A Personalized Experience,
Get A Coach for: Editing, Formatting,
Referencing, Proofreading,
Brainstorming, and General Thesis
Diagnosing*

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