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Reading Strategies to Improve Academic Reading

Quote

"Success is 20% skills
and 80% strategy. You
might know how to
read, but more
importantly, what's
your plan to read?"

- Jim Rohn

JimsMarketingBlog.com



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Agenda

1. Academic Reading and Comprehension
2. How to Read Academic Texts
3. Reading Strategies
4. Tools to Help You
5. Questions and Answers



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Academic Reading

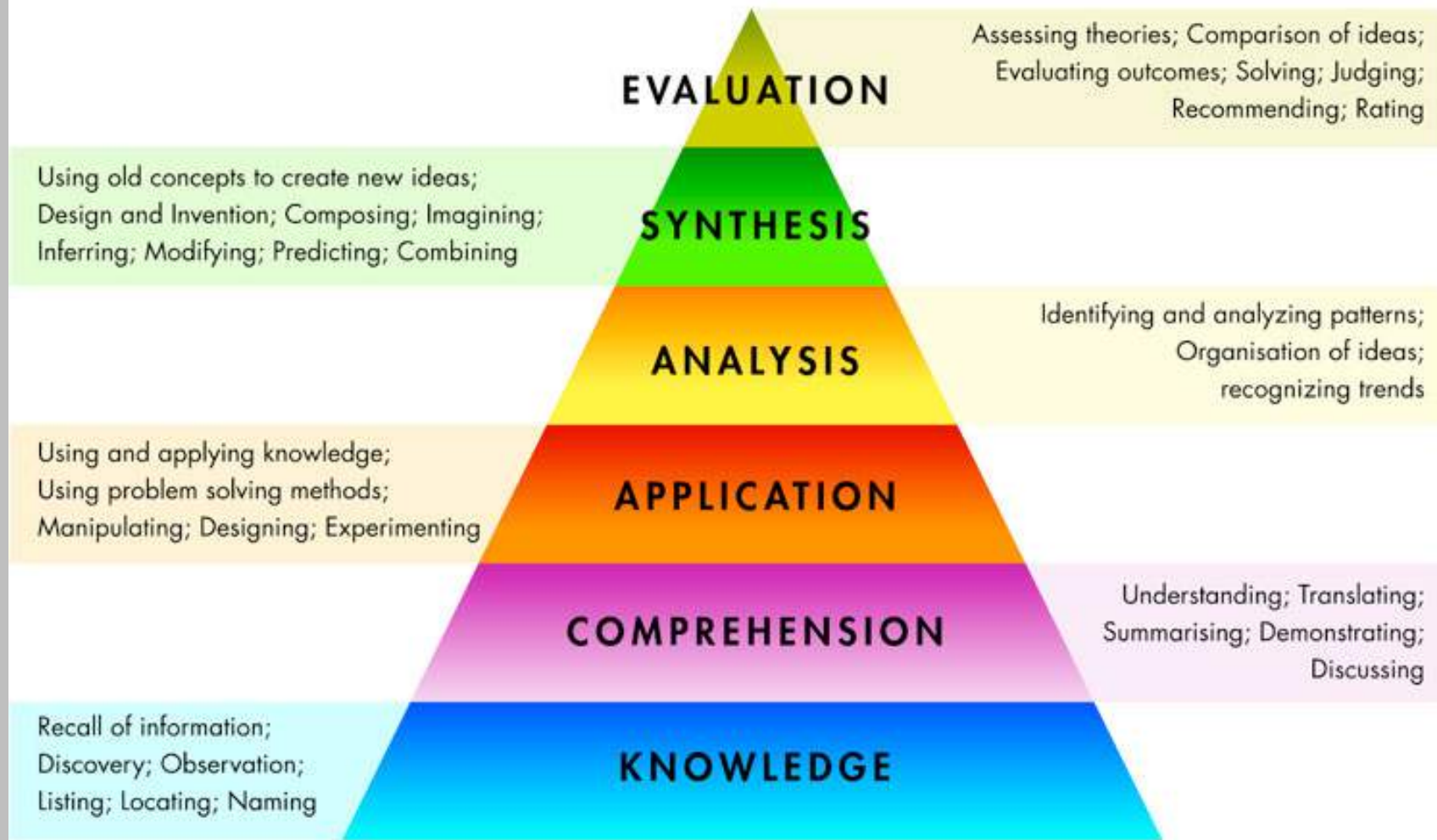
Reading academically, especially at graduate level, is a complex task



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BLOOMS TAXONOMY



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Graduate students should achieve the levels of application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation through reading



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Understanding of the information not only in relation to what the words or behaviours mean but also to their significance from the contextual point of view

What is comprehension?



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Higher-Order Thinking

- Transfer = Apply knowledge
- Problem-solving = Identify and solve problems
- Critical thinking = Make decisions based on judgment



Reading is a very important element of
academic writing and research.

Performing it effectively is a must.

But...How can you do it?



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How to Read Academic Texts

It all depends on...

Your goal for
reading and the
type of text you
have to read



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Broadly speaking, it is like
redesigning a room

How come?



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One approach to redesigning



Alice thinks that she does not need a guest bedroom anymore and goes directly to the nearest home improvement store. She walks every aisle trying to find out what she needs. She decides to make it an office and revisits aisles and spends a lot of time making decisions. Once she arrives home, she searches for online images of modern home offices and has to go back to the store for things she will need.



Another approach to redesigning



Susan thinks that she does not need a guest bedroom anymore, but a modern home office. She makes a web search for suggestions and images. After finding what she is looking for, she makes a list of all the things she will need. At the home improvement store, she skims aisles and chooses what she really needs and likes.



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Academic reading should be **efficient, active,**
and **critical** in order to get the information
and knowledge required to achieve the goals
set up for the target research or discussion



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To do that, academic reading should begin with a **clear purpose** and a **focused preparation** to apply the most **appropriate strategies**.



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Purposes of Reading



- Find answers to specific questions
- Get general ideas and background information
- Explore the current state of art in a topic
- Get detailed understanding of content
- Collect information/ evidence to support your points of view



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Purposes and Activities

Purpose	Main Activity
Find answers to specific questions	Use headings and subheadings to locate the relevant section
Get general ideas and background information	Look for headings, subheadings, abstract, and introduction
Explore the current state of art in a topic	Read abstract, introduction, literature review, and reference list
Get detailed understanding of content	Identify main and supporting ideas, evidence. Establish relationships between ideas. Look for definitions, diagrams, tables,...
Collect information/ evidence to support your points of view	Identify main and supporting ideas, evidence. Build a matrix of authors, ideas, and evidence. Establish differences and similarities



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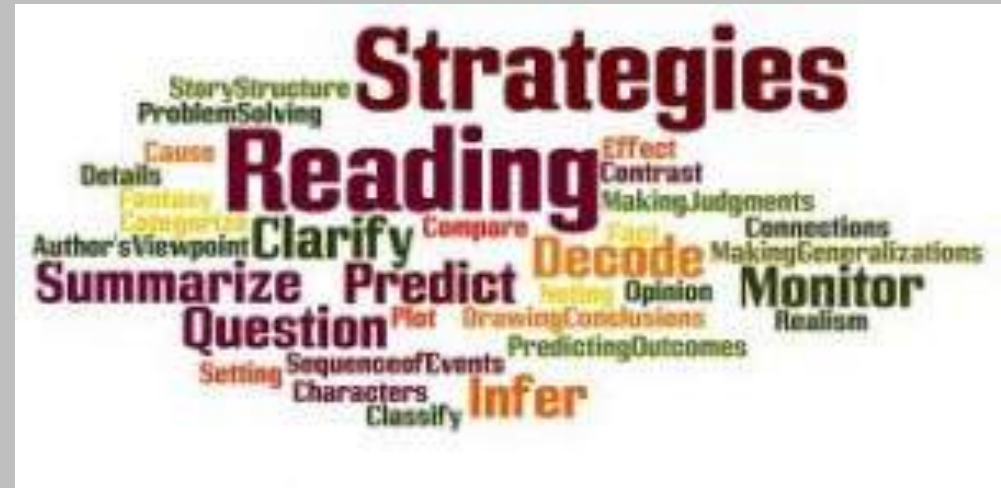
Types of Academic Texts

- Theses / dissertations
- Research reports
- Journals
- Books
- Policy documents
- Proceedings
- Archival documents
- Lecture/ interview transcripts



Strategies to Academic Reading

- Previewing
- Scanning
- Skimming
- Contextualizing
- Visualizing - organising
- Questioning
- Monitoring
- Inferring
- Searching-selecting
- Outlining and summarising
- Reflecting on challenging
- Evaluating an argument



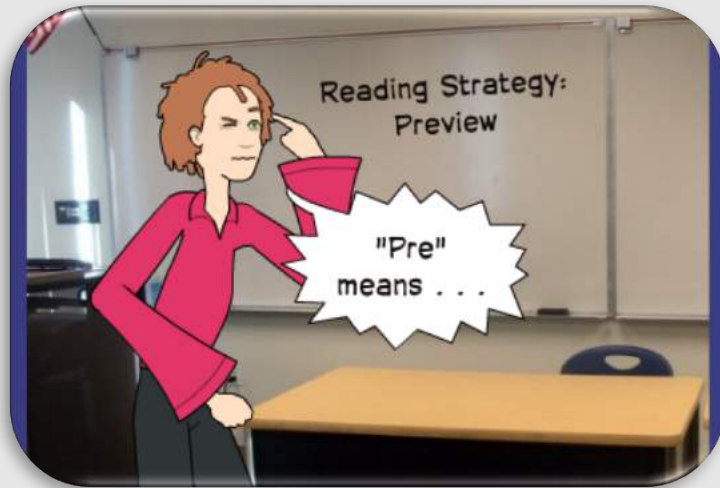
Adapted from: The University of Adelaide (n.d.).
Academic Reading Strategies: MBA.



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Previewing



Learn about a text before reading it.

It includes **activating** prior knowledge.

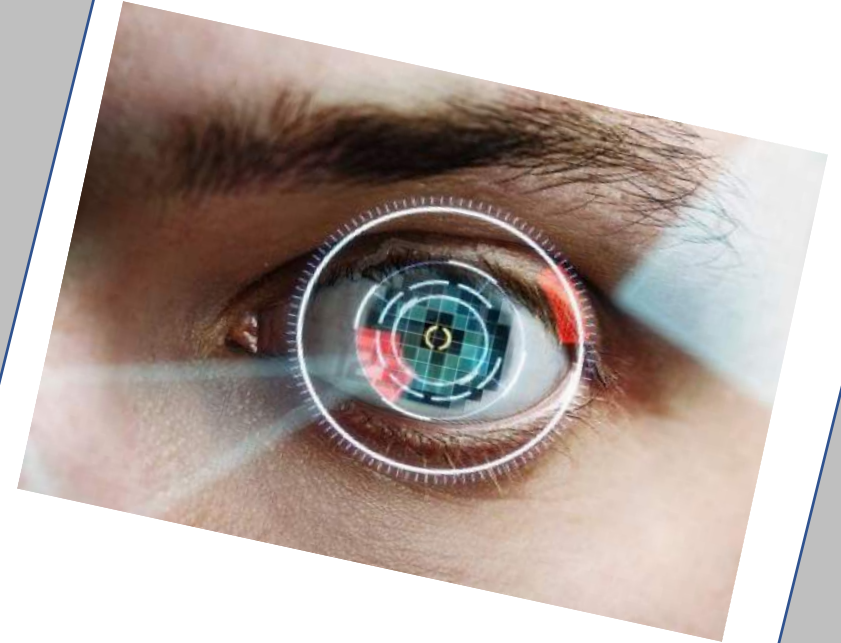


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Go through a text very quickly in order to either find a specific piece of information or know if the text has relevant information.

Scanning



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Skimming

SEARCH FOR CLUES



Look for the text to grasp the main ideas.

- Check headings, topic sentences, tables, and abstract.
- Read the first and last sentences of paragraphs.
- Rely on the structure of the text to find out if it is useful to achieve your reading purpose.



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Contextualizing

Link a text to a particular time, place, and set of experiences.

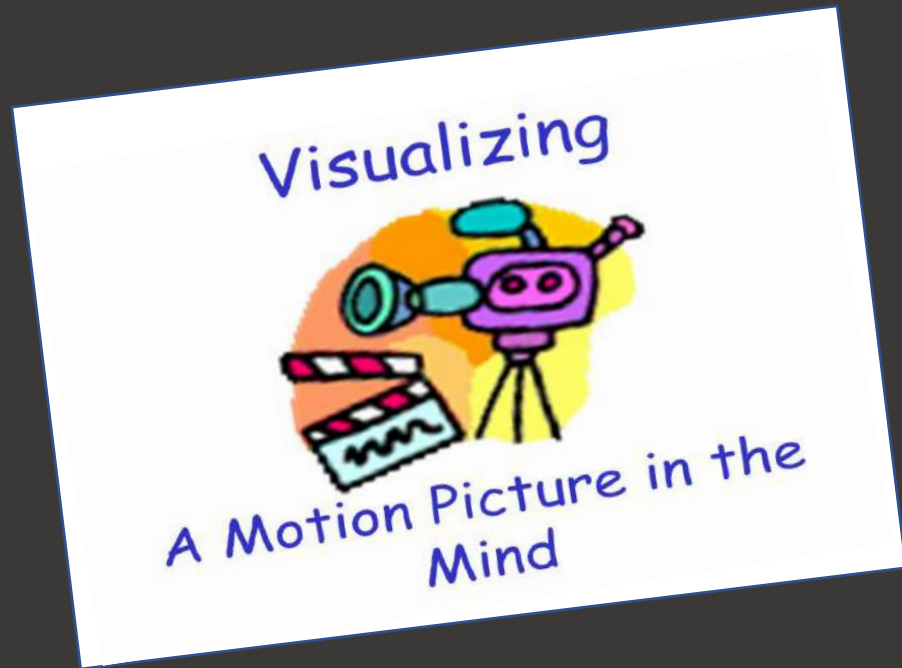
Establish differences and similarities between current social and scientific beliefs and values, your own, and those represented in the text.



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Visualizing- Organizing



Build a mental representation or an actual graphic organizer of what you are reading or expect to read in order to construct meaning from the text.



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Questioning

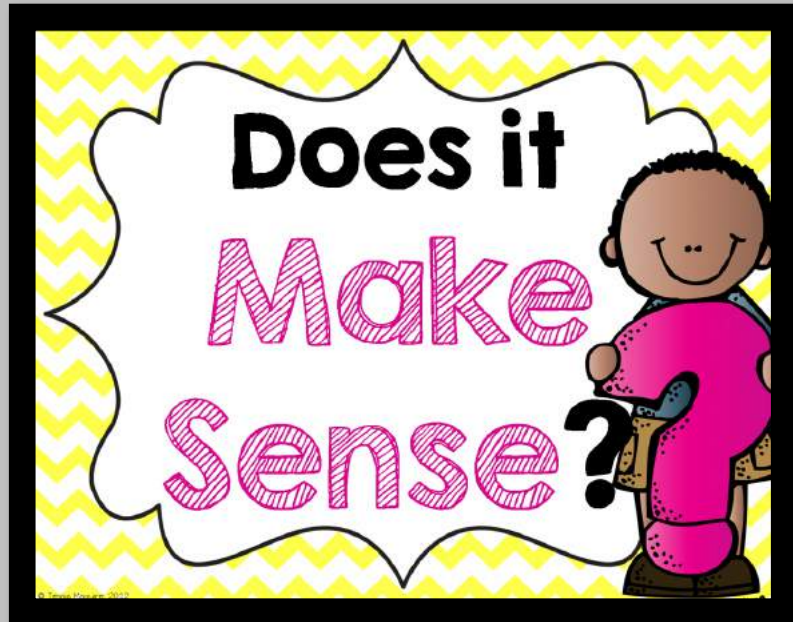
Create a dialogue between you and the text.
Generate and answers questions.
Expand the dialogue to other readers.



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Monitoring



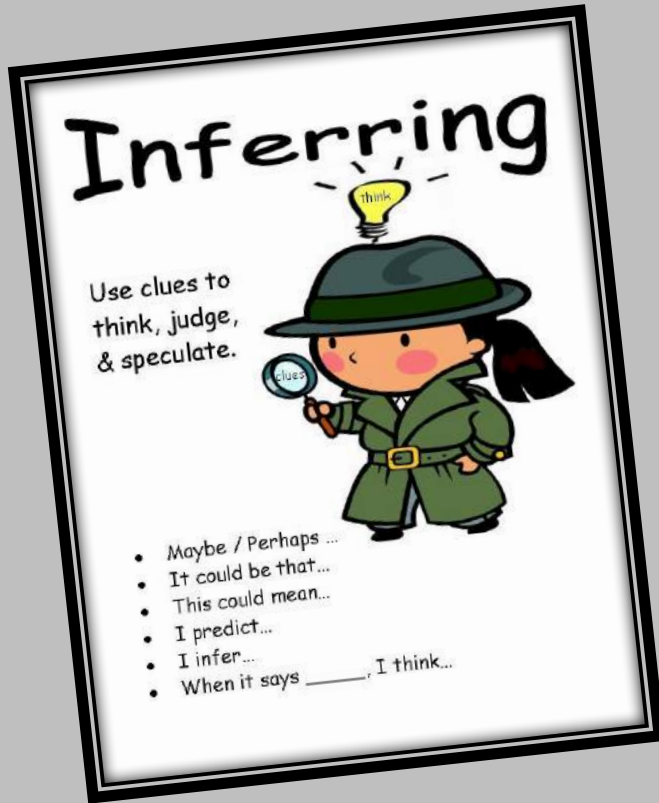
Think about how and what you read, during and after doing it, to determine how much you comprehend.



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Inferring



Construct meaning from the text by bringing together explicit and implicit information. Add your own background to get meaningful knowledge.



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Searching - Selecting

Search different sources in order to select appropriate information to answer questions, grasp concepts, define words, clarify misunderstandings, etc.



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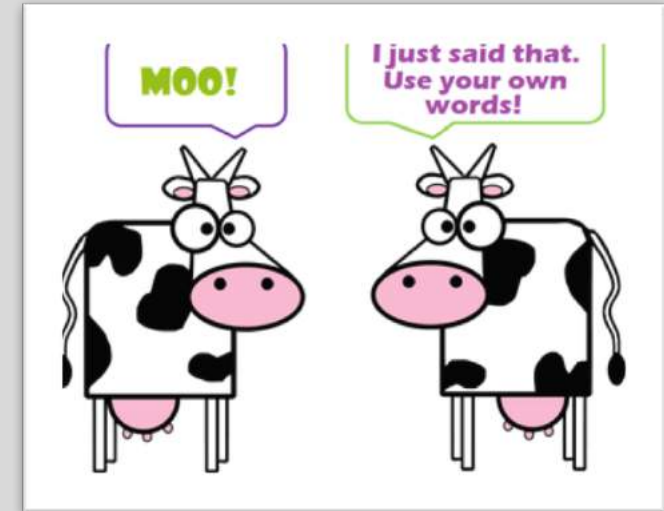


Outlining and Summarizing

Restate the ideas of a text using your own words.

If you can paraphrase it, then you have understood.

If not, sorry... Read again



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Reflecting on Challenging



An academic text may challenge your own points of view.

If so, mark those challenges and reflect upon them

- Why are they challenging?
- What arguments and evidence have been provided to present and support them?
- How can you present a solid case against them?



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Evaluating an Argument

Test the logic of a text, its credibility, and impact.

- Be a critical reader.
- Reflect upon the consistency of the ideas and evidence presented.
- Try to find weaknesses or gaps.
- Develop your own case for or against what you read.



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There are different reading strategies

You apply them according to the purpose
of your reading, the type of the text, and
your own learning style



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Main Idea

Academic reading requires you to be an **efficient, active, and critical** reader and **reading strategies** help you achieve that goal.



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Reference

The University of Adelaide (n.d). *Academic Reading Strategies: MBA*. Retrieved from https://www.adelaide.edu.au/professions/current-students/downloads-forms/mba-textbooks-exams/resources/MBA_Academic_Reading_Strategies.pdf



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Tools from DN & MN Portals

A Menu of Technologies All Geared To Help Students Finish Efficiently

All

Automatic With Membership

Available To Opt-in



Maps



Milestone Checklist



Student Self Assessment

Instant Feedback 24/7

Question?

[Click here to chat with us!](#)

☐ ONLINE - [Click here to chat](#)



Peer Reviewed Content



80 Webinars a Year



365 Motivational Emails



30 Day Writing Challenge

30 Day Doctoral Writing Challenge



Online Writing Groups



Coaching



Game Based Learning

Asynchronous & Synchronous Groups



These tools add ease to your Masters/Doctoral habits

- Add knowledge
 - Do the self assessments on your control panel – check your work against the criteria for examination
 - What Does It Take to Graduate This Year? Part One: Backward-Mapping
 - Transferable skills boxed set
- Add skill
 - Video: Strategic Planning for Graduate Students
 - 30 day writing challenge
 - Critical thinking boxed set
- Add inspiration (the desire is all yours of course)
 - 365 motivational emails
 - E-motivations under resources
 - YouTube of the week – also under resources menu

What's Up ?

1. Please remember that now everyone with a university membership needs to go to <https://theiruin.doctoralnet.com> and those with individual memberships should use main.doctoralnet.com
2. If you need a coach to solve problems with your dissertation or an editor to assure its readability, consistency, and accurate application of the required referencing style, you can contact me at maria@doctoralnet.com
3. Webinars <https://www.bigmarker.com/communities/doctoralnet/conferences>
 - Improve your reading
 - Plan for work-life
 - Conducting mixed methods
 - Love this graduate year!
4. Groups are coming in Feb once a month – will be listed as webinars
 - Prep for your final document
 - Lingerers
5. Webinars about research questions are coming in Feb
6. New Content
 - Boxed sets – sign up now under resources menu
 - Webinars will be privately on YouTube with tabs
 - Academic writing tips once a week

Q & A

In the next minutes, you are invited to ask questions about what has been discussed today. Feel free to not only ask questions but also answer them.