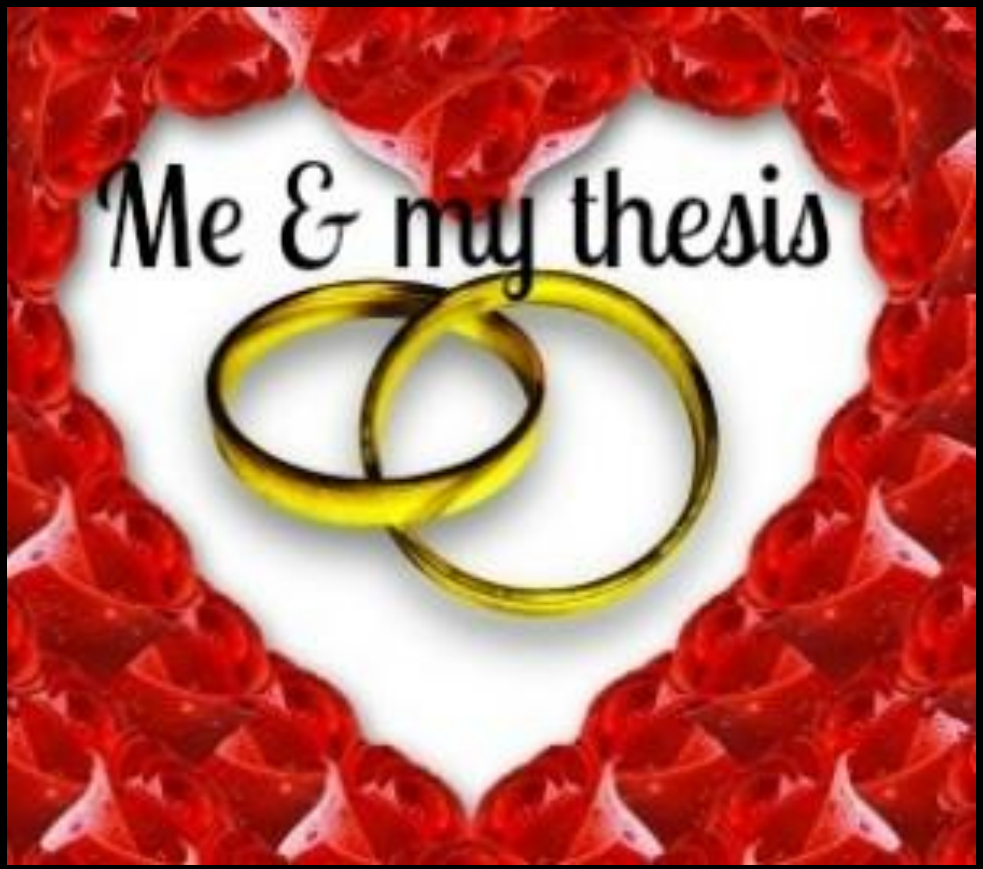
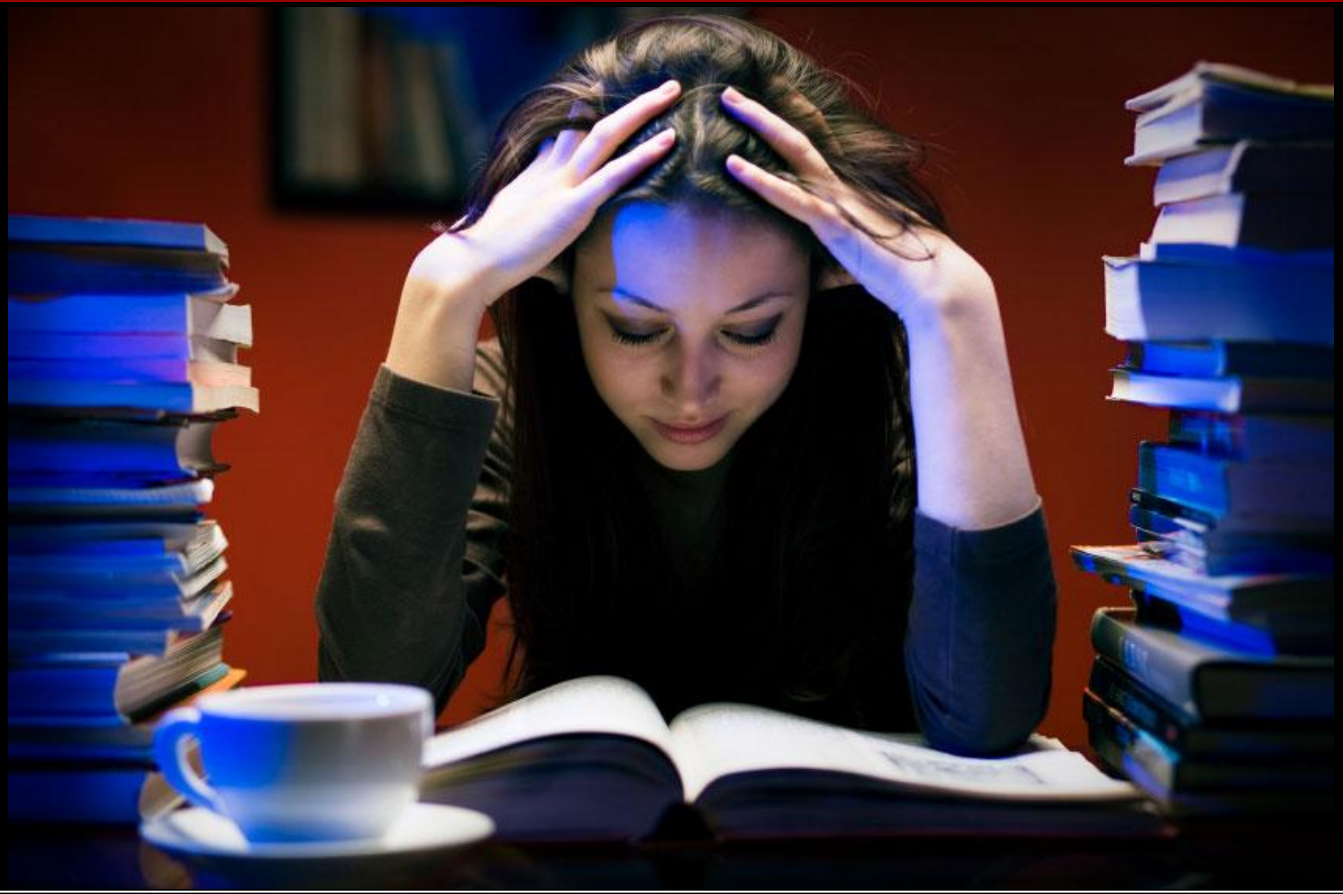
RESEARCH SUPPORT 2015: SESSION 1



Then the reality check

Things didn't go as planned

How to be successful in your studies



Rule 1:
Understand what you are letting yourself in for

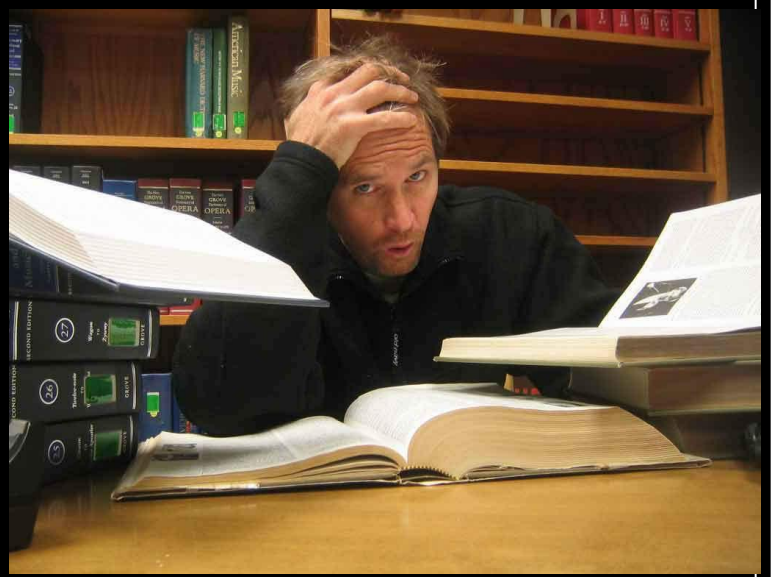
- The scope of the task
  - MED 240 credits – 2400 notional hours – 1200/year = 30h/w
  - PhD 360 credits – 3600 notional hours – 1200/year = 30h/w

Rule 2: Manage your own learning

- Big rocks – manage time
- Life happens
- Keep your eye on the goal

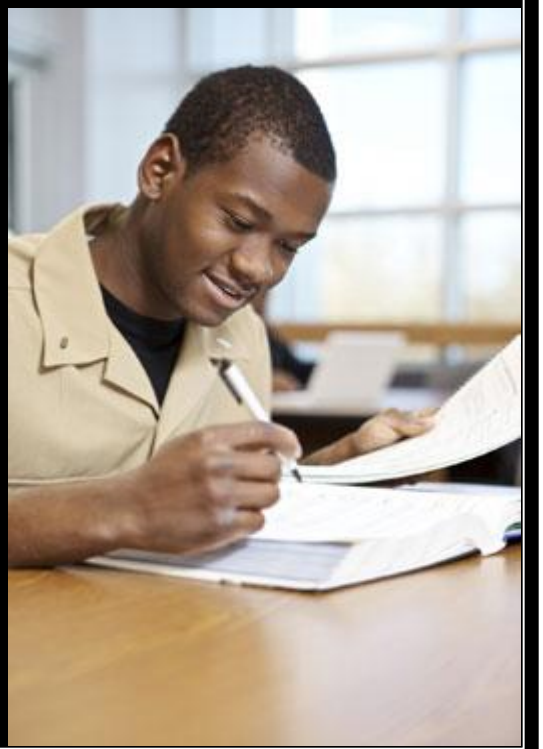
Rule 3: Make the best use of what is available

- Dedication + hard work
- Reflective journal – map your own learning
- Be prepared to develop as a scholar
- Be open for critique
- Be willing to learn



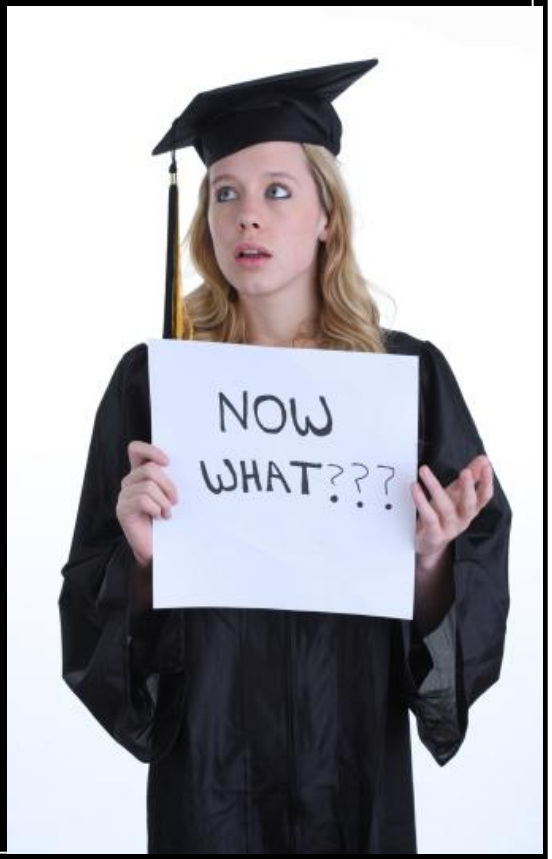
Rule 4: Become a master

- Master the art of academic reasoning
- Master the art of academic reading
- Master the art of academic writing



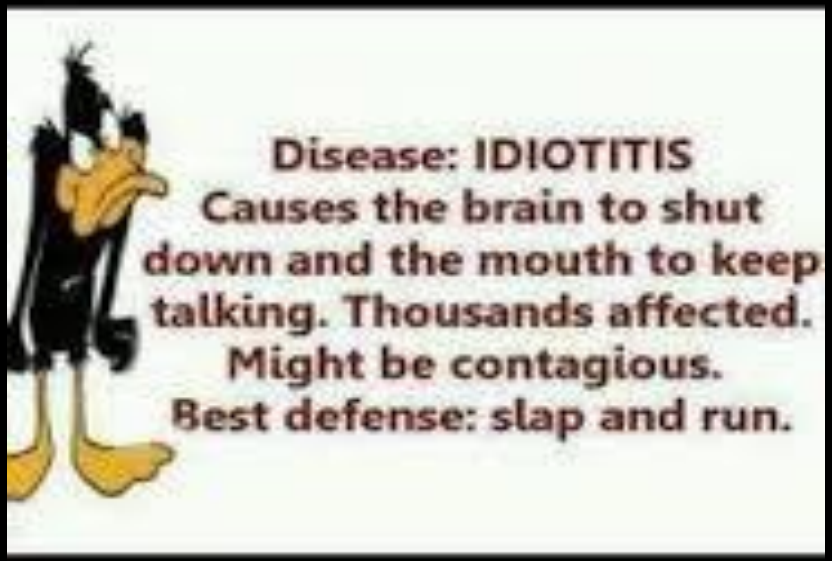
Rule 5: There is life after M Ed / PhD

- You will be measured in terms of your contribution to body of knowledge
- Making your degree work for you



If a doctor, lawyer, or dentist had 40 people in his office at one time, all of whom had different needs, and some of whom didn't want to be there and were causing trouble, and the doctor, lawyer, or dentist, without assistance, had to treat them all with professional excellence for nine months, then he might have some conception of the classroom teacher's job.

(Donald D. Quinn)


Disease: IDIOTITIS
Causes the brain to shut down and the mouth to keep talking. Thousands affected. Might be contagious.
Best defense: slap and run.

The task ahead

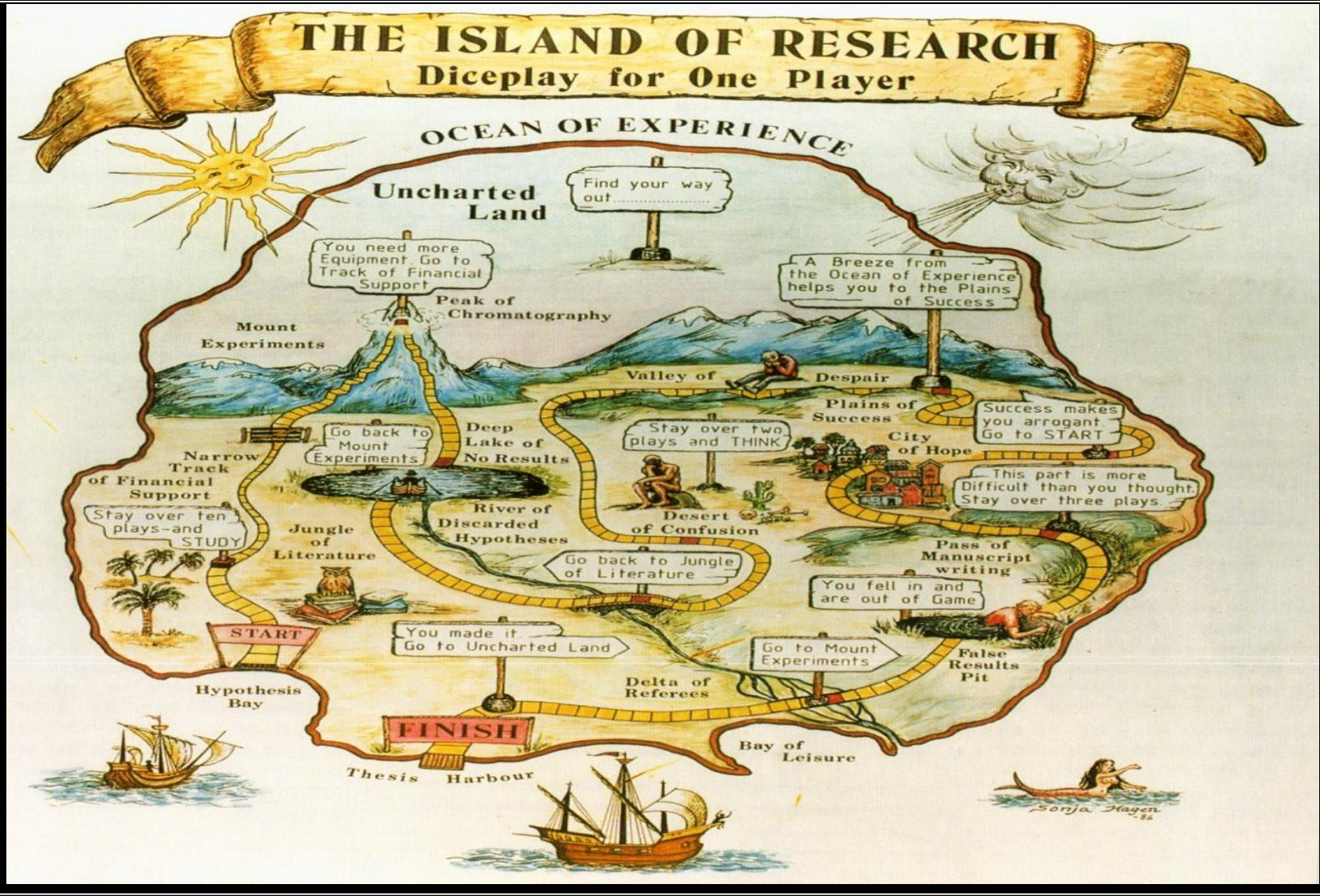
- You have been selected
- You have a supervisor
- Your 1st year
  - Read, read and read
  - Develop a research proposal – iterative process
  - Defend research proposal
  - Obtain ethical clearance
- Research support
- 2nd – 4th year – fieldwork & development of thesis
- An article based on your research

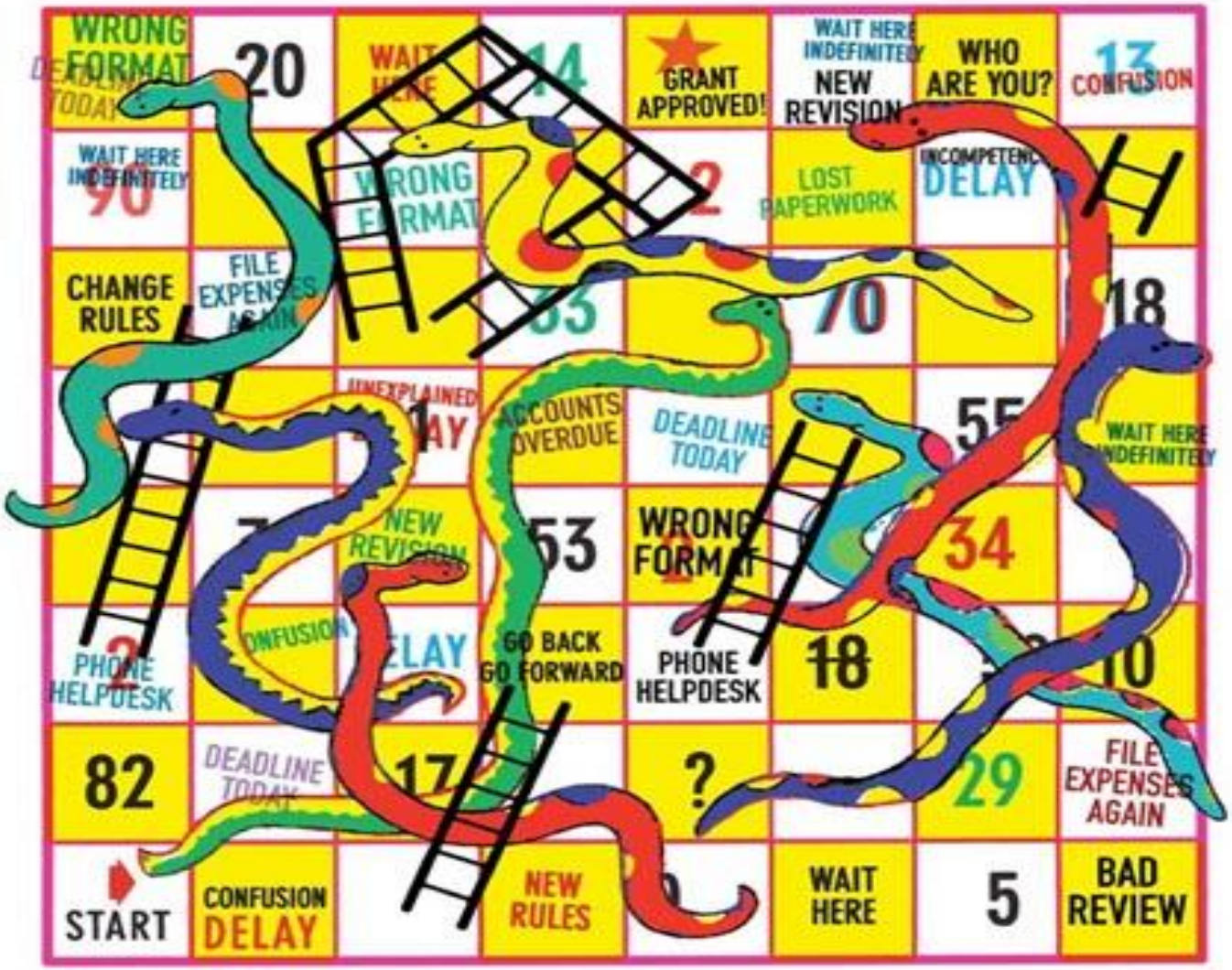
Criteria for assessing research proposal

- Is the topic fresh, stimulating and intellectually challenging?
- Is the research proposal feasible, viable and operationalisable?
- Is the research design appropriate and defensible?
- Is the research relevant to current educational debates and discourses applicable to the programme area?
- Is the research proposal well articulated, concise and direct?
- Does the proposed research have practical applicability that could lead to further research or a better understanding or insight into a specific phenomenon?

Assessment of your dissertation / thesis
Your work must be of a standard that satisfy the requirements in terms of

- scientific and academic standard of research; research procedures and techniques; methodology; definition and extent of research; theoretical foundation; coverage of literature and comprehension of field of research;
- scientific and academic quality of processing; presentation, analysis and synthesis of data, structure and logical development and arrangement of content; as well as critical findings, conclusions and recommendations;
- editing and use of language;
- technical finish and layout;
- whether the dissertation/thesis or parts thereof is publishable.


THE ISLAND OF RESEARCH
Diceplay for One Player
OCEAN OF EXPERIENCE
Uncharted Land
Find your way out
You need more Equipment Go to Track of Financial Support
Peak of Chromatography
Mount Experiments
A Breeze from the Ocean of Experience helps you to the Plains of Success
Valley of Despair
Plains of Success
Success makes you arrogant Go to START
City of Hope
This part is more Difficult than you thought. Stay over three plays.
Stay over two plays and THINK
Desert of Confusion
Go back to Mount Experiments
Deep Lake of No Results
Narrow Track of Financial Support
Stay over ten plays-and STUDY
Jungle of Literature
River of Discarded Hypotheses
Go back to Jungle of Literature
Pass of Manuscript writing
You fell in and are out of Game
START
You made it Go to Uncharted Land
Go to Mount Experiments
False Results Pit
Hypothesis Bay
Delta of Referees
FINISH
Bay of Leisure
Thesis Harbour
Sonja Hagen


WRONG FORMAT
20
GRANT APPROVED!
WAIT HERE INDEFINITELY
NEW REVISION
WHO ARE YOU?
13
CONFUSION
WAIT HERE INDEFINITELY
90
LOST PAPERWORK
DELAY
CHANGE RULES
70
18
ACCOUNTS OVERDUE
DEADLINE TODAY
55
WAIT HERE INDEFINITELY
NEW REVISION
53
WRONG FORMAT
34
PHONE HELPDESK
GO BACK GO FORWARD
PHONE HELPDESK
18
82
DEADLINE TODAY
17
?
29
FILE EXPENSES AGAIN
START
CONFUSION DELAY
NEW RULES
WAIT HERE
5
BAD REVIEW

What is research?

It is **not** merely -

A process of information gathering

A random process of data collection and analysis

A catchword to legitimize or validate something

Proving a preconceived idea or point

Writing a thesis

PROOF THAT GIRLS ARE EVIL

First we state that girls require time and money:

$$Girls = Time \times Money$$

And as we all know "Time is Money"

$$Time = Money$$

Therefore:

$$Girls = Money \times Money = (Money)^2$$

And because "Money Is The Root of All Evil"

$$Money = \sqrt{Evil}$$

Therefore:

$$Girls = (\sqrt{Evil})^2$$

And we are forced to conclude that:

$$Girls = Evil$$

Why are fire-trucks red?

What is research?

Research is a

planned and

systematic process of

gathering data which,

after it has been analysed,

will help you gain a better understanding of

a phenomenon that you are interested in or

enable you to test a hypothesis

Research -

Originates with a question or a problem

It is guided by the research question or problem

Divides a primary question into sub-questions

Requires a clear articulation of a goal/aim

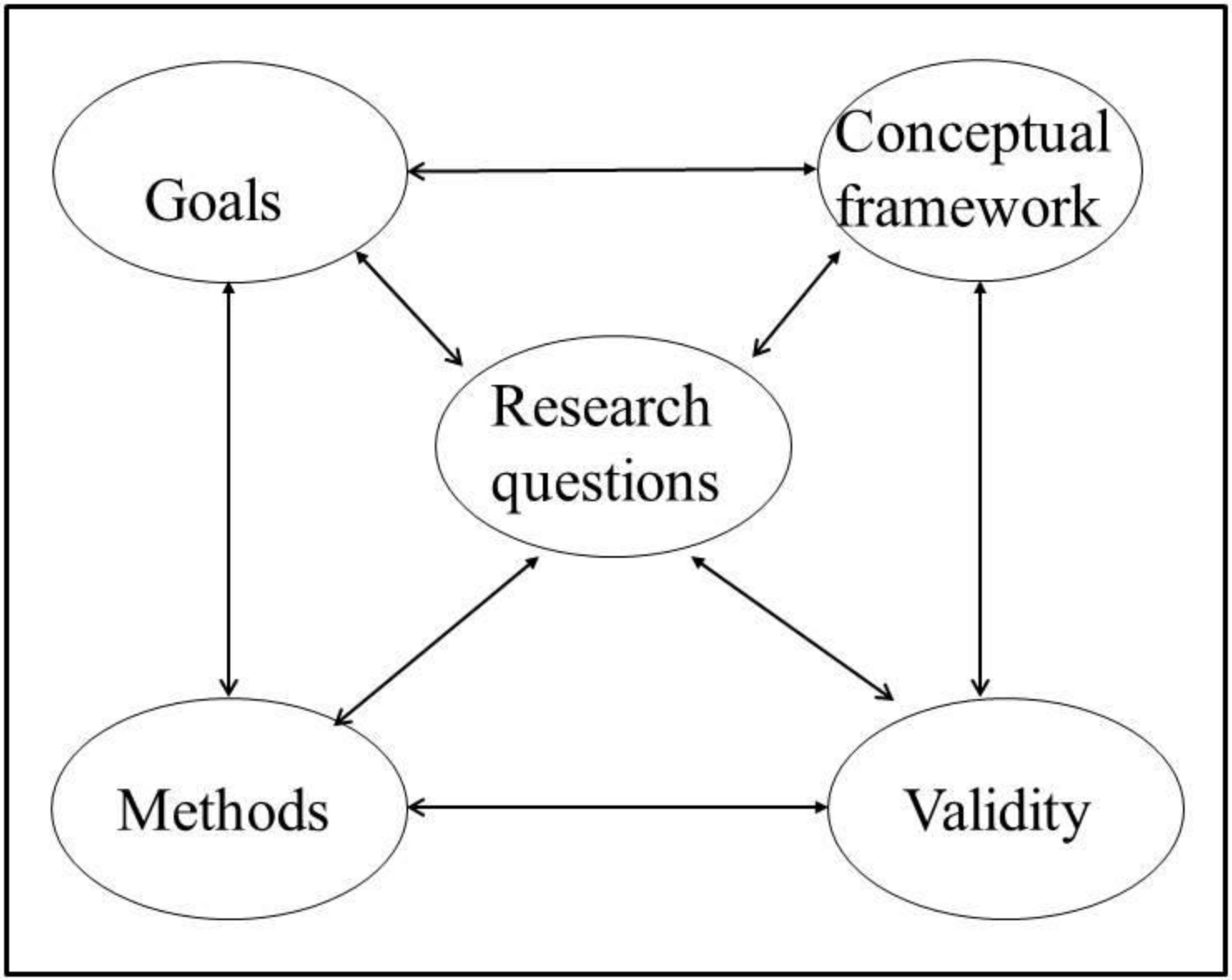
Declares its assumptions

Follows a specific methodology or plan

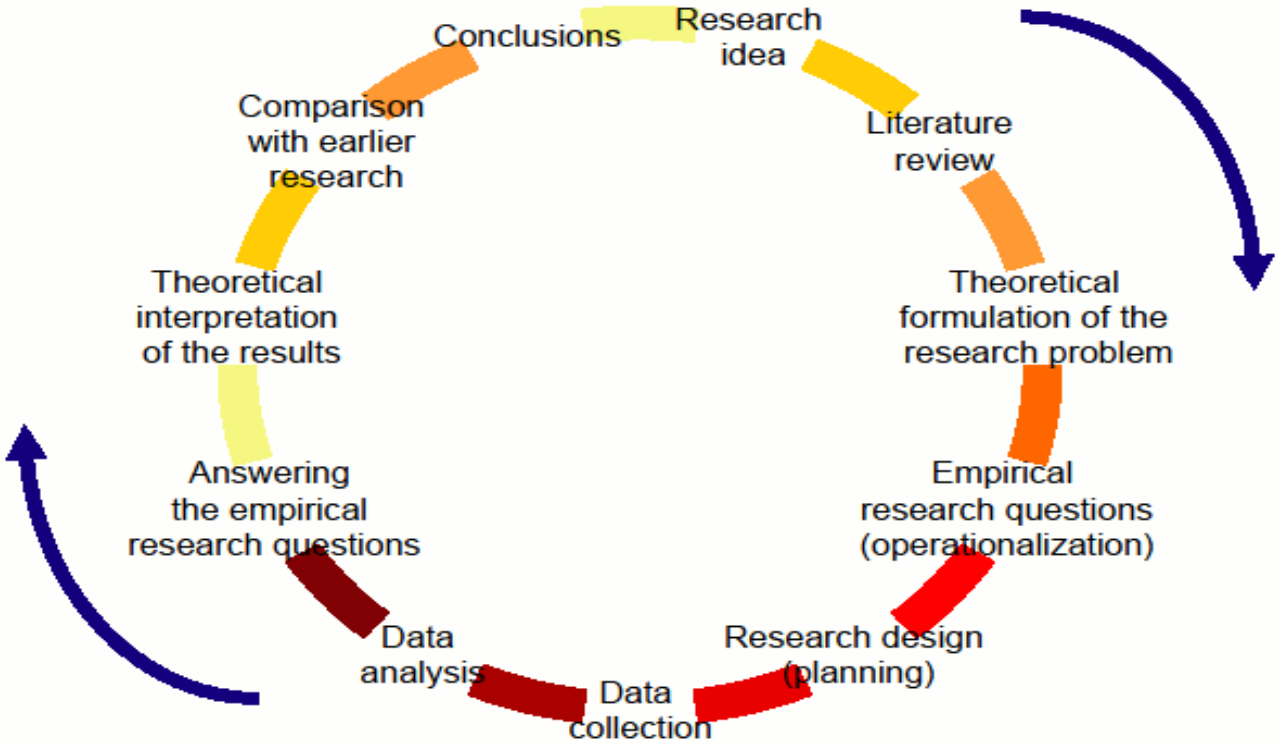
Requires the collection and analysis of data to answer the research question

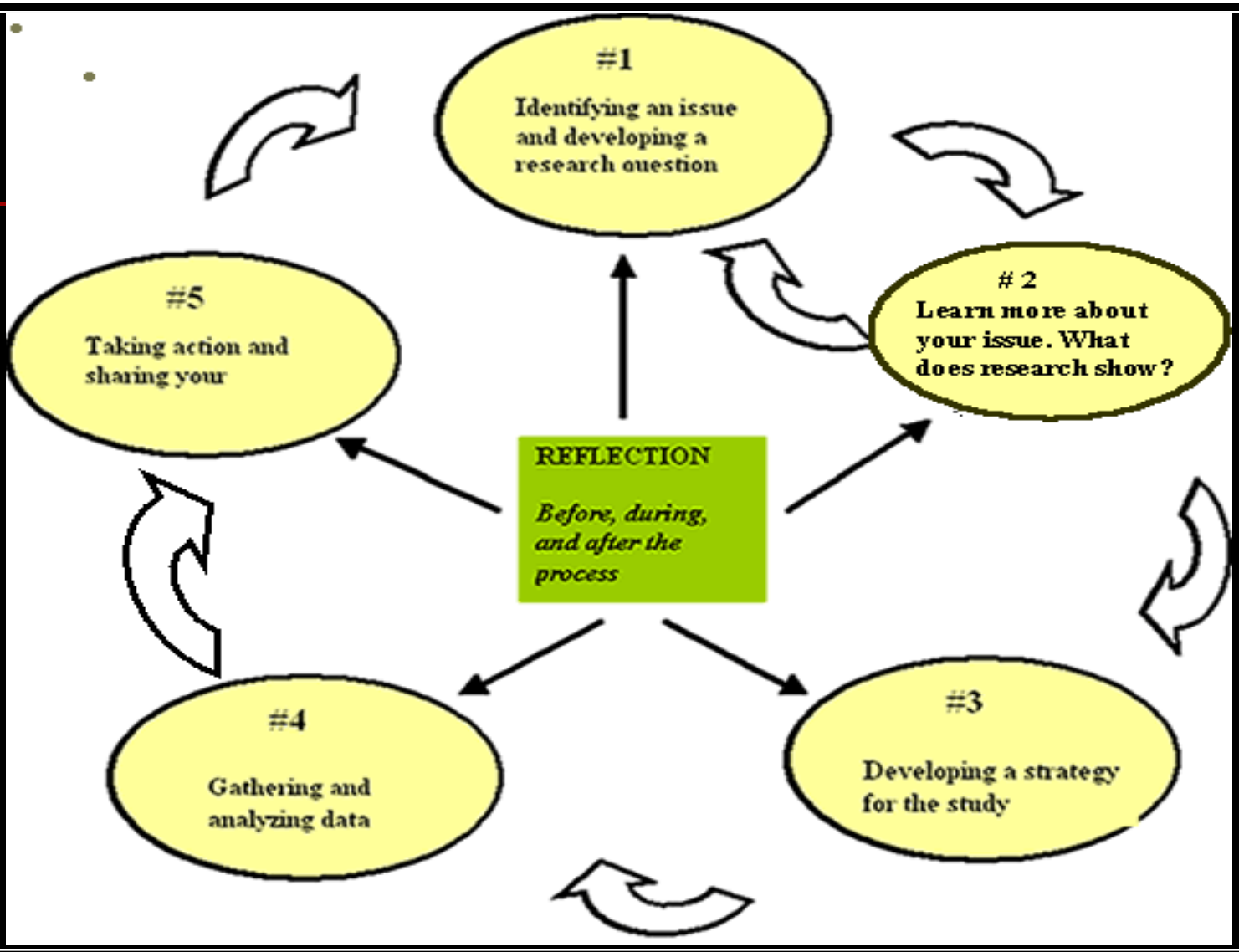
Is cyclical or helical

Steps in a research process

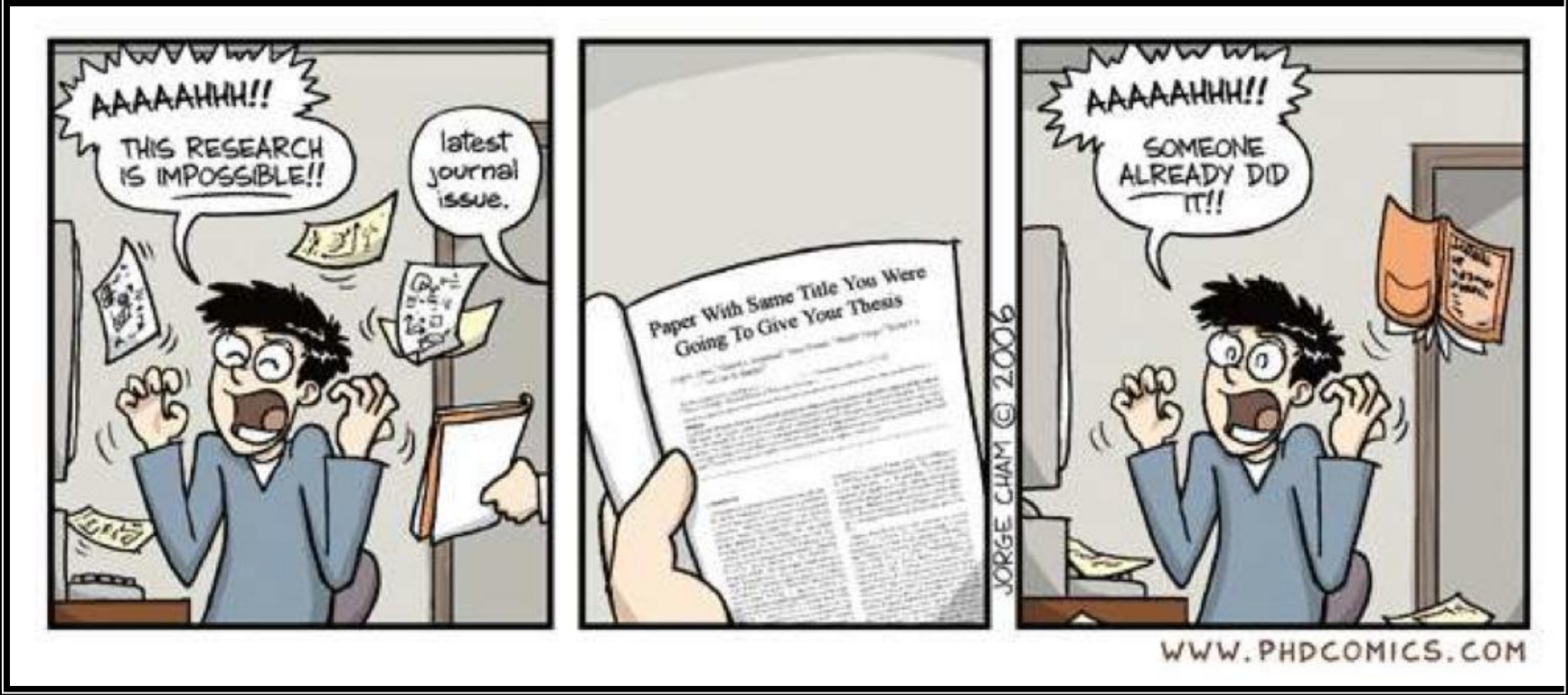

Goals
Conceptual framework
Research questions
Methods
Validity

The research process




#1
Identifying an issue and developing a research question
2
Learn more about your issue. What does research show?
#3
Developing a strategy for the study
#4
Gathering and analyzing data
#5
Taking action and sharing your
REFLECTION
Before, during, and after the process

Getting started
Where do I find a research problem?



Getting started

Where do I find a research problem?

Identify your broad area of interest

Select a study/problem that is in line with your professional goals

Read, read, read – literature searches

Discuss with colleagues and others

Consult the experts

Spend substantial time defining the problem

Origins of research problems

Practical problems in the field

Reading literature in specific field

Gaps

Silences

Omissions

Recommendations for further research

Think them up

ideas influenced by background, culture, education, experience, etc.

Remember

Needs to sustain your interest over a long period of time

projects take longer than planned

Avoid topics that are overly ambitious and challenging

temper enthusiasm with pragmatism

Avoid topics closely linked to your emotional issues or have personal ax to grind

may worsen the issue and get in the way of completion

Choose a topic that is worth pursuing

can demonstrate mastery of subject & method

have a potential to make a contribution

Two important rules

DON'T REINVENT THE WHEEL
BUT DON'T IGNORE YOUR IDEA
JUST BECAUSE YOU THINK IT KINDA
LOOKS LIKE A WHEEL.

THE WORK BLOG | MAKE STUFF
CHRISCREEDBLOG.COM

Always test the feasibility of your study

Often a tradeoff between rigour and practicality

- time limited
- resources limited

Feasibility considerations:

- duration
- costs

Resources (human and other)

- ethical constraints or implications
- required cooperation for successful conclusion, e.g. provision of info.

What makes a good research question?

Deep (theory-rich)

Generative (lead to other questions)

Simple (strait forward)

Concise (not clouded in words)

Elegant (well-put)

Correct (grammatically)

Feasible and operationalisable

Timely and relevant

Cutting edge, provocative, stimulating

Practical value

CORE PRINCIPLES IN RESEARCH

OCCAM'S RAZOR

"WHEN FACED WITH TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS, THE SIMPLER OF THE TWO IS THE ONE MOST LIKELY TO BE TRUE."

OCCAM'S PROFESSOR

"WHEN FACED WITH TWO POSSIBLE WAYS OF DOING SOMETHING, THE MORE COMPLICATED ONE IS THE ONE YOUR PROFESSOR WILL MOST LIKELY ASK YOU TO DO."

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