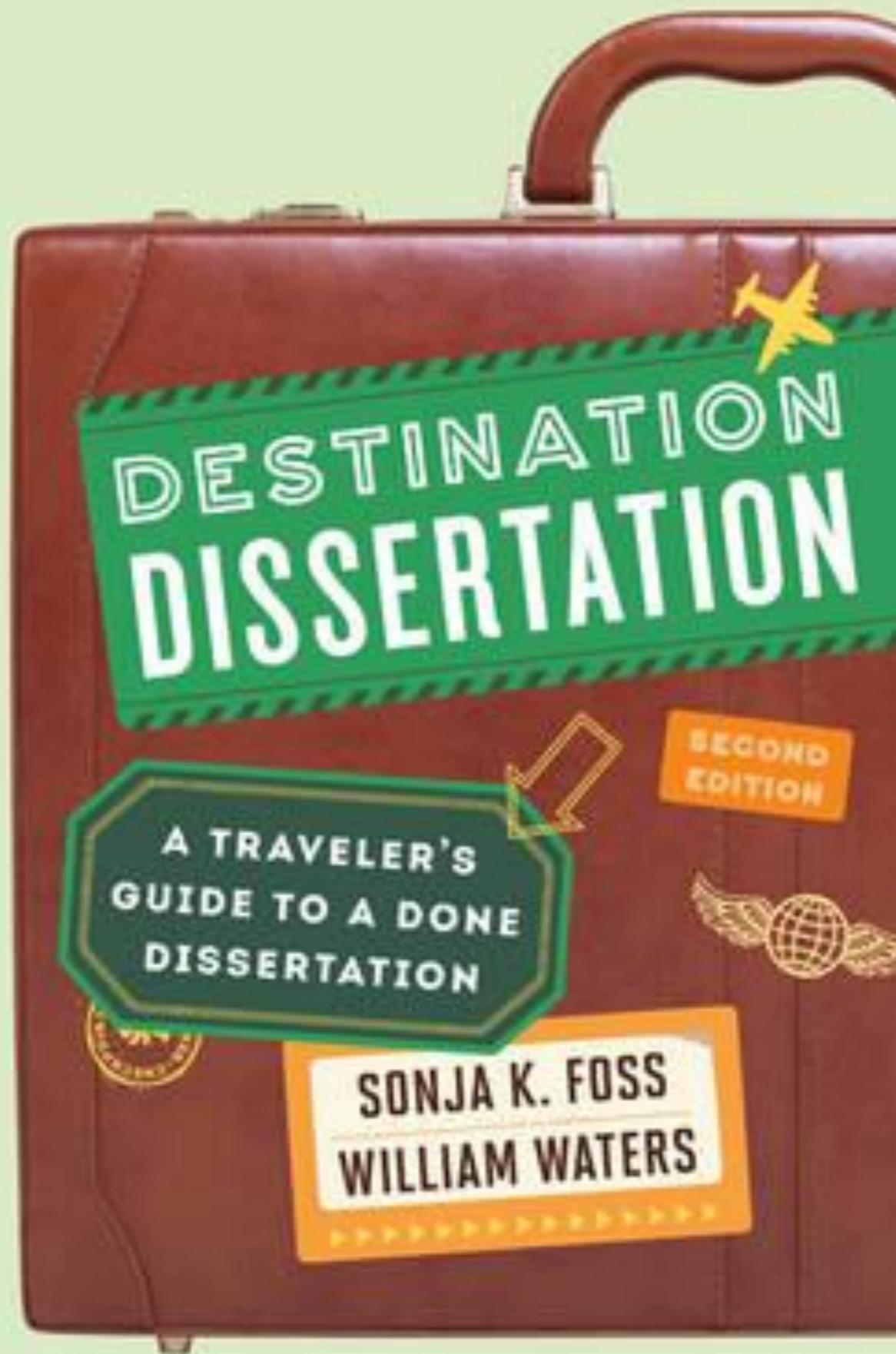
A dark, top-down view of a desk. In the center is a silver laptop with a blue-tinted screen. Surrounding the laptop are several papers, some open and some stacked. In the top right corner, there is a small framed photograph of two people. The overall lighting is dim, creating a focused and professional atmosphere.

# WRITING THE RESEARCH REPORT

**DR. SYDNEY BROWN**

**PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

**COORDINATOR, GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**



**DESTINATION  
DISSERTATION**

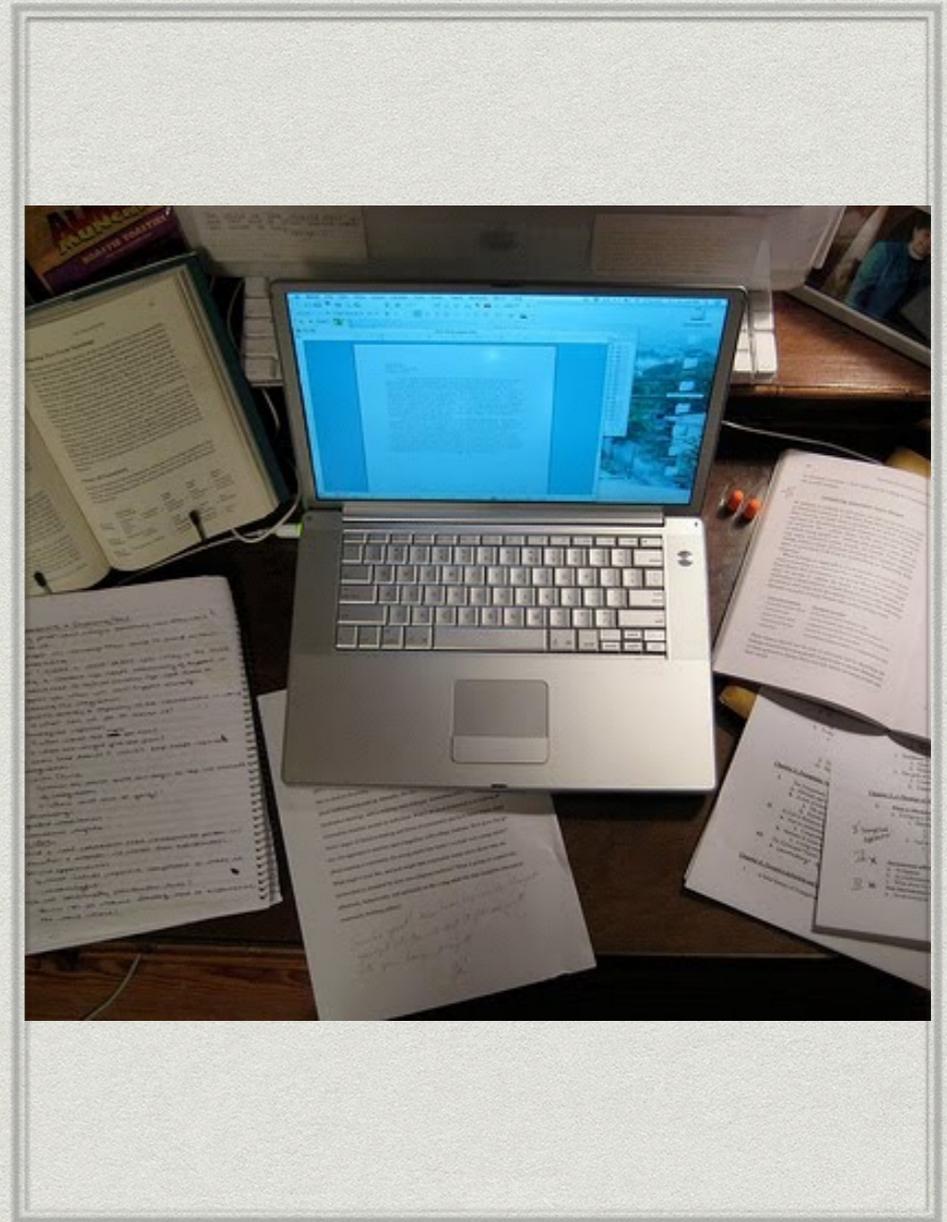
**A TRAVELER'S  
GUIDE TO A DONE  
DISSERTATION**

**SECOND  
EDITION**

**SONJA K. FOSS  
WILLIAM WATERS**

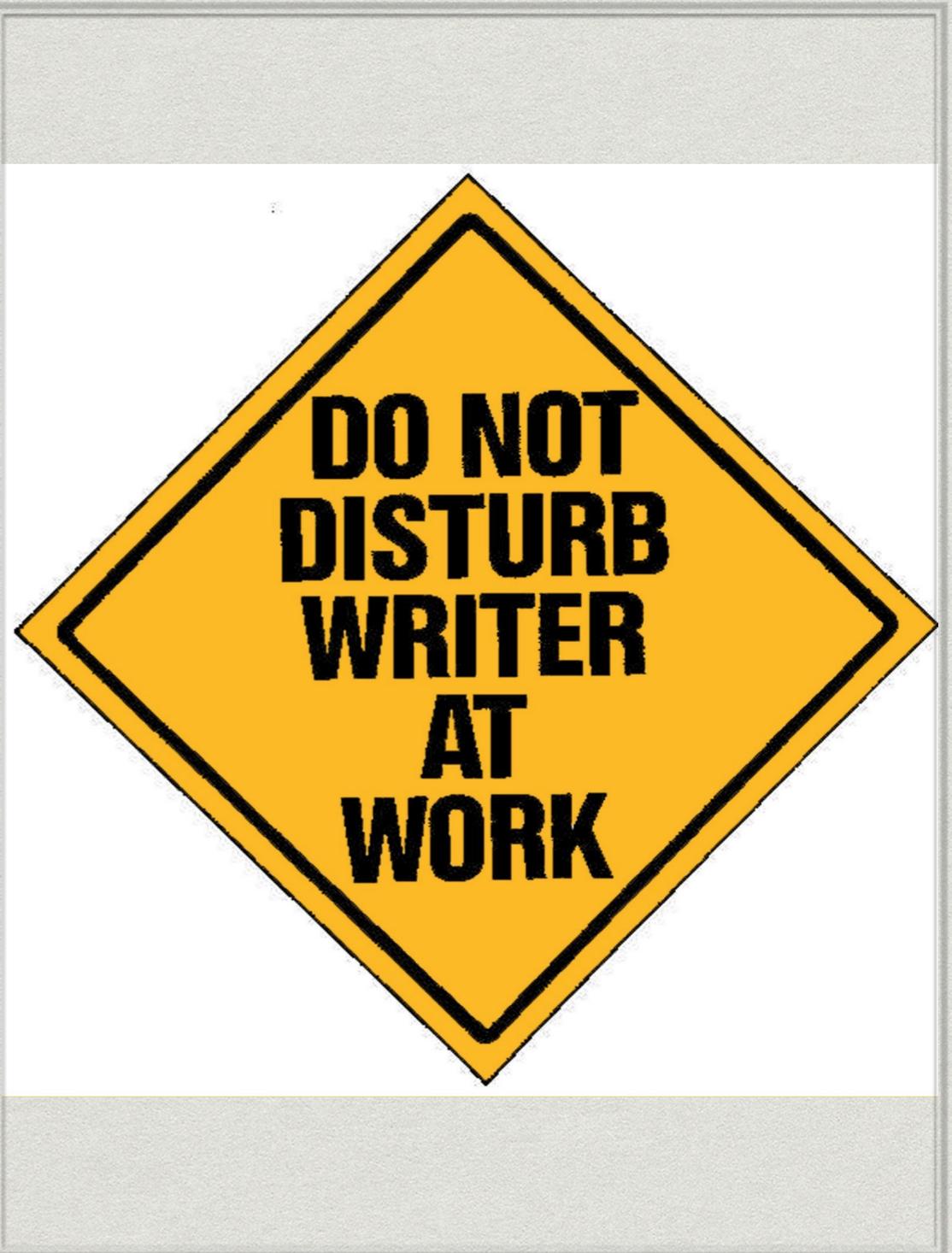
# Topics

- \* Overall writing process
- \* Writing chapter 5
- \* Helpful resources



# Overall writing process

- \* Regular time to write
- \* Regular space to write
- \* Writing group of critical friends
- \* Fast writing
- \* Slow editing
- \* Create a timeline

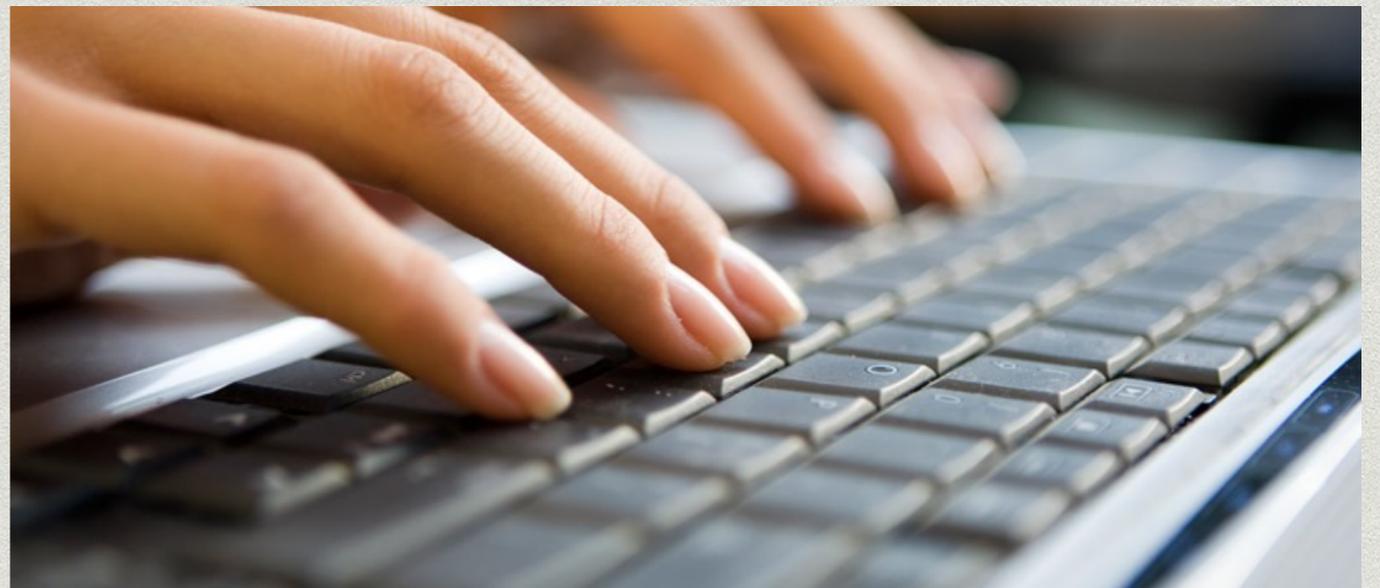


# Fast writing...Spew draft!

- \* Why?
  - \* Faster than writing a perfect first draft
  - \* Better for big writing projects
  - \* Editing while writing can result in weaker text
  - \* Results in working out major arguments first

# Fast writing...Spew draft!

- \* How?
  - \* Turn off the screen
  - \* Make notes to yourself
  - \* Skip around
  - \* Keep ideas flowing



# Slow editing

- \* Editing

1. Remove unnecessary information or where you got off track.
2. Rearrange remaining text for clearest presentation.
3. Find where you need more information.
4. Focus on paragraphs.
5. Review transitions between sections.
6. Review transitions between paragraphs.
7. Review sentences.
8. Review word choice.
9. Review spelling and punctuation.

# Slow editing

- \* Proofreading
  - \* Create a personal style sheet
  - \* Computer-aided proofreading
  - \* Hard copy proofreading
    - \* Read slowly/out loud
    - \* Check sentence punctuation
    - \* Check citations

# Create a timeline

1. Create clear, specific dissertation milestones
2. Assign milestones to specific dates
3. Make realistic timetable
4. Maintain timeline in electronic form

- \* <https://www.officetimeline.com>

- \* <http://blog.capterra.com/free-open-source-project-management-software/>

# Convert large goals in timeline to action plans

- \* Why?
  - \* Determines daily tasks so time isn't wasted
  - \* Make better use of small blocks of time
  - \* Feel tangible sense of accomplishment on ongoing basis
  - \* Used for multiple life goals
  - \* Free brain time for creative deep thought

# Convert large goals in timeline to action plans

- \* How?
  - \* Make actions small and specific
  - \* Connect goals to days of the week
  - \* Make a realistic research plan
  - \* Maintain action plan in electronic format
  - \* Review and revise frequently

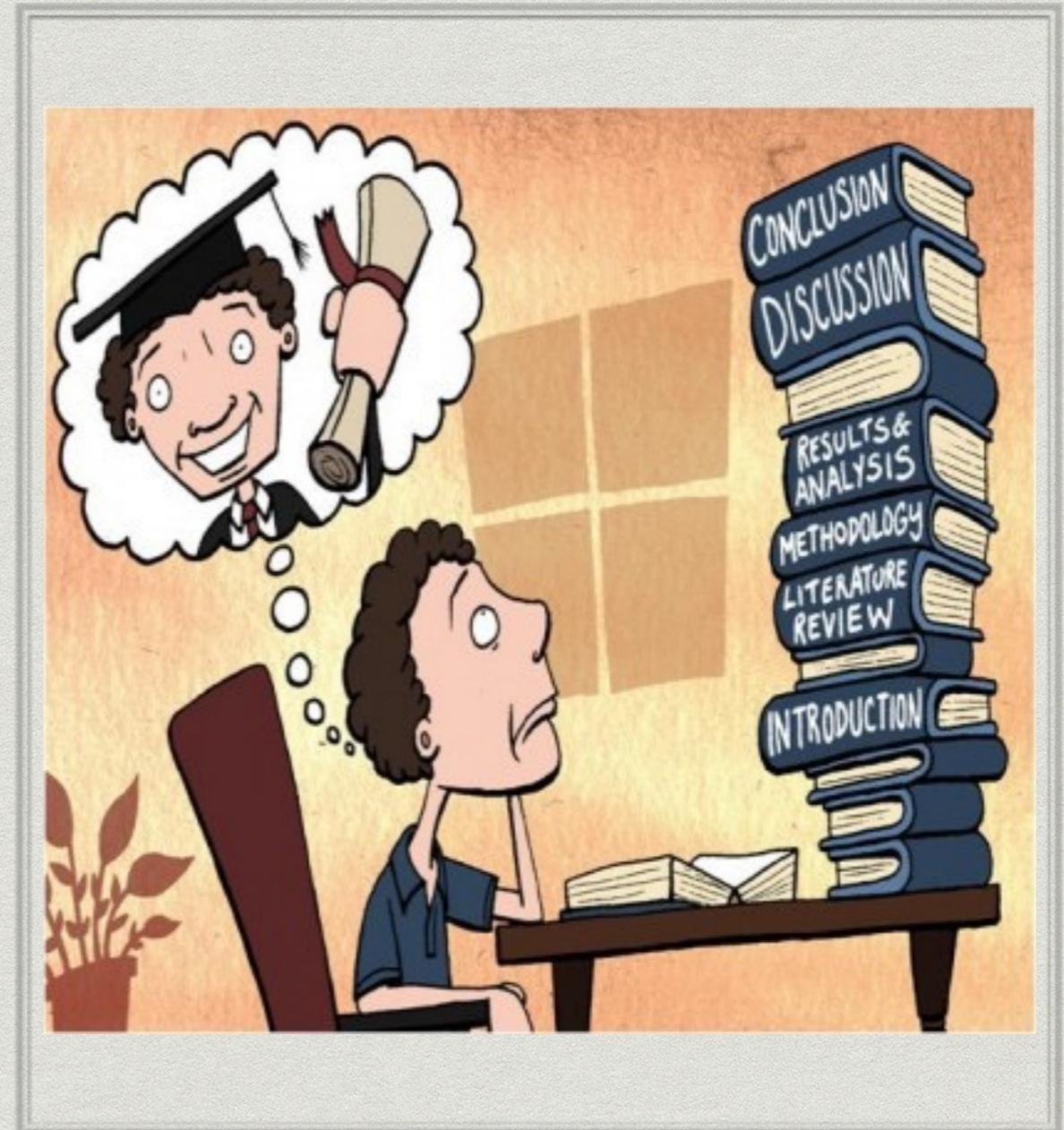
# Writing Chapter 5

- \* General considerations
  - \* About 15 pages total
  - \* Difficult to write
  - \* Important!



# Sections of Ch. 5

- \* Summary (3-4 pages)
- \* Interpretation (7-15 pages)
- \* Limitations (2-5 pages)
- \* Suggestions for future research



# Ch. 5 Summary (3-4 pages)

- \* Research questions
- \* Data collected
- \* Methods of collection and analysis
- \* Major findings

# Ch. 5 Interpretation (7-15 pages)

- \* Multiple paths
  - \* Develop a theory
  - \* Relate findings back to the literature
  - \* Revisit rationale/significance of the study
  - \* Contribution to conversations in discipline
  - \* Applications

# Ch. 5 Limitations (2-5 pages)

- \* 3-4 limitations
- \* Include how your study design addressed limitations or why they are not problematic
- \* If they are problematic...

# Ch. 5 - Suggestions for future research

- \* Turn limitations into suggestions
- \* Test initial theory developed
- \* Build on initial research in dissertation

# Almost there!

- \* Revise your first 3 chapters (if you haven't already!)
  - \* Change (approved) elements of research design
  - \* Change language tense from future to past
- \* Abstract
  - \* Purpose
  - \* Basic research design
  - \* Major results
- \* Front matter
  - \* Acknowledgements (consider doing early?)
- \* Check quote accuracy

A Good  
Dissertation is  
a Done  
Dissertation.

- Ancient Grad Student Proverb

# Resources

- \* [gwudissertation.wikispaces.com](http://gwudissertation.wikispaces.com)
  - \* This site contains a bibliography of useful texts, pertinent GWU documents, and a calendar announcing upcoming defenses!
- \* [www.phinished.org](http://www.phinished.org)
  - \* Online discussion and support group
- \* [www.rackham.umich.edu/downloads/publications/DissSuppGrp.pdf](http://www.rackham.umich.edu/downloads/publications/DissSuppGrp.pdf)
  - \* Making a dissertation support group work for you
- \* [writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/dissertations](http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/dissertations)
  - \* UNC Writing Center - practical advice on starting, drafting, and completing your dissertation