



**CSI**  
COLLEGE SCENE INVESTIGATION

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## Top Ten Tips: Thesis and Dissertation Success

1. Don't go it alone. Ask yourself: Did I do all the work for all my classes all by myself? Chances are that you did not, so why think you must go it alone now?
2. Join or start a support group.
3. Make sure your faculty committee is on the same page with your dissertation advisor/director.
4. Create your own timeline and goals.
5. Create a plan for completing your dissertation, including amount of time needed per task and logical listing of all anticipated tasks.
6. Talk to your professor, search your university website, and even ask your departmental secretary to learn everything you can about what you have to do to make the university happy as you work on your dissertation. You are trying to find out how to deal with your institution's committee that reviews research conducted by faculty and students, the person who is responsible for making sure that all dissertations and thesis are formatted according to the university's requirements, your program/college/university deadlines for paperwork associated with your dissertation filing, etc.
7. Sit down with family members, loved ones, and friends to enlist their help and support; that is, recruit a team of loyal enablers.
8. Have regular (i.e., weekly or more) conversations with your major professor or dissertation advisor/director.
9. The written Proposal is just the first two or three chapters and includes the following (which are only a summary of a greater amount of needed information): why your study matters, whom your study will benefit, how you define the elements of your study, what theories and literature support your claims for conducting your study, and what methods you will employ in conducting your study.
10. The final Dissertation includes the items listed above and two more chapters involving your results, conclusions and recommendations.

Bonus Tip: Use your dissertation support group members and your family to hold you accountable so you can get done. It's so true that a good dissertation is indeed a done dissertation.