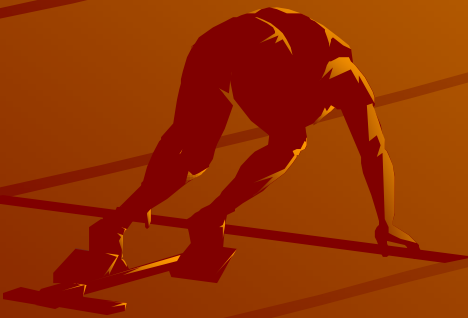


# Steps in the Research Process and Other Writing Tips

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For LAS 815



# 1. Conceptualization

- ✦ Identify a clear question or puzzle
  - Consider long-term benefits to you, to knowledge, to the public
- ✦ Define the scope appropriate to the output
- ✦ Is the question feasibly answered?
- ✦ Conduct preliminary literature review + data inspection to as a pre-test

## 2. Specialization and Accumulation

- ✦ Steady, cumulative specialization in a technical + geographical area
- ✦ Time management key
- ✦ Understand the historical and statistical context
- ✦ Identify the major forces and key actors

# 3. Literature and Data Review

- ✦ Concentric circles approach
- ✦ Identify schools of thought, paradigms
- ✦ Identify uniting and dividing issues
- ✦ Identify networks
- ✦ Begin to develop your own view in juxtaposition to these.

## 4. Begin to Develop Your Framework

- ✦ Develop a map of the key actors, interests and their inter-relationships
- ✦ Who are the winners and losers?
- ✦ What are the catalysts and variables?
- ✦ How have they changed over time?
- ✦ What do you see for the future?

# 5. Develop an application

- ✦ Move past the frontier of knowledge and push the envelope forward using your cf.
- ✦ New theorization, hybrid information, or new applications
- ✦ Statistical, comparative, or case study- q. of feasibility again-methods?
  - are there enough reliable sources from a variety of povs?
  - Are there adequate data?
  - Is there adequate time for objective analysis?

## 6. Lines of Activities

- ✦ What does/will determine change in your issue area?
- ✦ What explains relative power?
- ✦ What explains what happens?
- ✦ What do you see as potential sources for changes in r/ships and/or returns and/or outcomes?
- ✦ What is your prediction?

# 7. Recommendation

- ✦ What do you recommend as a solution & set of lessons for your focus of study?
- ✦ How does your study lead to a future agenda?
  - How does it fit within your future plans?
- ✦ What q.s remain unanswered and how would you tackle them?
- ✦ Think carefully about how to explain your study to a knowledgeable audience.

# Exercises to Help You Get There

- ✦ 1. Current Events analysis  
(Identification, application, actors, Interests and dynamic)
- ✦ 2. Reflection Papers analysis (Lit review, developing a conceptual framework, considering methods)
- ✦ 3. Cumulative steps of research paper (mini-model of I-t project)