

UNDERSTANDING THE THESIS PROCESS

DEMYSTIFYING THE THESIS

What is a thesis?

A **structured, sustained** reporting out of research that you conducted - *It is not a really long research paper*

Abstract → Introduction → **Literature Review** →
Data and analysis → Conclusion → References

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Create a specific **research question** that you'll address

What interests you? What merits further study?

What is a topic you have something to say about?

Who do I know who has gone through this process?

WHO CAN HELP ME?

Your faculty advisor and committee!

What instructors have you **connected** with?

What **class** has most interested with you so far?

What faculty **conducts research** on/near your topic?

HOW DO I PREPARE?



READ, READ, READ!

WALTON



HOW DO I PREPARE?

A photograph of a person in a red shirt sitting at a desk, using a laptop and a notebook. The person's hands are visible, typing on the laptop keyboard and holding the notebook. The notebook has the word "Notes" written on it. The background is blurred, showing a wooden desk and a chair.

BE INTENTIONAL

AM I WORKING WITH HUMAN SUBJECTS?

IRB Approval?

(Your faculty advisor can help you with this process)

<http://vpred.uark.edu/units/rscp/humans-as-subjects-in-research.php>

DO I HAVE A PLAN?

Your plan



Time Management

List short term project goals for this week/month:

List long term project goals for this semester:

List strategies to improve your writing this semester (e.g., journaling, visiting BCL):

What questions do you have about the process or project:

Mind Mapping

Rectangular Snip

Possible topics:

Resources

Strategies

People

Writing goals

The image shows two side-by-side planning tools. The left tool, titled 'Time Management', is a red box with four sections for listing goals and strategies. The right tool, titled 'Mind Mapping', is a blue box with a central cloud labeled 'Possible topics:' and five arrows pointing to 'Resources', 'Strategies', 'People', and 'Writing goals'. A small 'Rectangular Snip' label is at the top left of the blue box.