

David Romer's Rules for Making It Through Graduate School and Finishing Your Dissertation

"Out in Five"

Source: [Brad De Long's Website](#)

- *Don't clutter up your life with other activities; **just write.***
 - *Don't carry out a thorough and comprehensive search of the literature; **just write.***
 - *Don't attempt to make sure that every page you write shows the full extent of your professional skills; **just write.***
 - *Don't write a well-organized, well-integrated, unified dissertation; **just write.***
 - *Don't think profound thoughts that shake the intellectual foundations of the discipline; **just write.***
 - *If you don't have a paper started by the spring of your third year, **be alarmed.***
 - *If you don't have a paper largely drafted by the fall of your fourth year, **panic.***
 - *Have **three new ideas** a week while you are getting started.*
 - *Don't try to game the profession, **work on what interests you.***
 - *Good papers in economics have **three characteristics:***
 - *A **viewpoint.***
 - *A **lever.***
 - *A **result.***
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