10 DOs & DON’Ts for your master thesis

or

The 5 most common questions master students ask me,
and the 5 questions I wish they’d ask instead

MasterDay for SciTech students
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1. Motivation
2. Work ethics
3. Previous knowledge
4. References
5. Formatting
6. Research question
7. Language
8. Supervision
9. Time management
10. Alignment
5 DON’Ts

Things you should avoid when writing your master thesis
«How do I get an A?»

DON’T mistake ambition for motivation and remember why you are doing your master thesis
«How long do you think it will take me to write this up?»

DON’T start writing your thesis at the end of term but write a little bit every day
Can I just say that ...

DON’T start from scratch and use what you already know
«When do I have to refer to other people’s work?»

DON’T forget to refer to you sources and be aware of research ethics
«How many pages should my thesis have? Which font size should I use? Should I have more illustrations? ...?»

DON’T get hung up on the small stuff, like formatting and other time traps.
5 DOs

Things to remember when writing your master thesis
«Do you know what I am doing?»

FORMULATE a strong research question/problem
«How can I make you see what I see?»

WRITE

Use simple, precise and concrete language

"Now! That should clear up a few things around here!"
«How can I get the most out of my supervision?

PREPARE well for supervision

MANAGE your supervisor to make the most of their time
«How do I make sure that I have a strong end product?»

SUBMIT an early draft and manage your time well
«How can I connect everything well?

DEVELOP a central theme and align everything with each other
ALIGNMENT

WHAT do you know/have when you are done? Are you producing a proposal, an evaluation/assessment, recommendations/strategy, ...?

In which format are you presenting your findings?

WHAT is the subject/topic/problem you work with?

And, why?

Is the topic/subject or the purpose relevant for the field?

TOPIC/SUBJECT?

WHY/TO WHICH END are you working with this? What are the challenges? What are you trying to find out about (conditions? relationships? improvements? ...)?

PURPOSE?

HOW can you answer the question? Which information do you need? Where/how do you get it?

RESULT?

WHAT do you know/have when you are done? Are you producing a proposal, an evaluation/assessment, recommendations/strategy, ...?

In which format are you presenting your findings?

METHOD?
1. Make the master your business card
2. Work smart
3. Use previous knowledge
4. Cite sources!!!
5. Focus on what is important
6. Formulate a good research question
7. Write, and write well
8. Make the most of your supervision
9. Manage your time well
10. Align topic, method and results
Good luck!
Enjoy!
https://techooid.com/annoying-thesis-mistakes
https://wordcounter.io/blog/top-6-most-common-thesis-statement-mistakes/
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