

A 6-step “program” to writing a dissertation! Nuno Limão

1. Believing

“If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves.”
—Thomas A. Edison

“Nos perigos grandes, o temor é muitas vezes maior que o perigo.”
—Luis Vaz de Camoes.

Or as Roosevelt would put it 400 years later: “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

2. Conceiving

“Do what you love. Know your own bone; gnaw at it, bury it, unearth it, and gnaw it still.”
—Henry David Thoreau

“What is now proved was once only imagined.”
—William Blake

“Logic will get you from A to Z; imagination will get you everywhere.”
— Albert Einstein

“Question with boldness even the existence of a God; because, if there be one, he must more approve of the homage of reason, than that of blind-folded fear.”
—Thomas Jefferson

3. Executing

“Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.”
—Thomas A. Edison

“It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.”
— *Sherlock Holmes*

“He who loves practice without theory is like the sailor who boards a ship without a rudder and compass and never knows where he may cast.” But recall that “La semplicità è la sofisticazione finale.”
—Leonardo da Vinci

“In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed”
—Charles Darwin

4. Persisting

“I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.”

—Thomas A. Edison

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.”

—Nelson Mandela

“Those that won't be counseled can't be helped”

— Benjamin Franklin

5. Presenting

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”

— Benjamin Franklin

“To talk well and eloquently is a very great art, but that an equally great one is to know the right moment to stop.”

— Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

6. Perfecting

“Details make perfection, and perfection is not a detail.”

— Leonardo da Vinci

“Perfection is finally attained not when there is no longer anything to add but when there is no longer anything to take away”

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery

“Have no fear of perfection - you'll never reach it.”

—Salvador Dali

If you have any good advice, please follow Oscar Wilde's advice (as I do above) and pass it on. It is never any use to oneself.