



Teaching

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

"Out in Five"

- 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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