

MARCH '13

Aa Bb Cc

I like teaching but I want to do research...

JUNE '13

Wow! I was accepted to a PhD programme This is my dream coming true...

AUGUST '13

They say PhD is hard But it's okay I have a master's under my belt so I will be fine...

SEPTEMBER '13	DECEMBER '13	APRIL '14	JUNE '14
INBOX (2)	INBOX (127)	INBOX (354)	INBOX (1,227)
NEW (0)	NEW (3)	NEW (15)	NEW (18)
SENT (0)	SENT (15)	SENT (32)	SENT (139)

YOU NEED TO GET TRAINING & WRITE ASSIGNMENTS

YOU NEED TO DO PILOT & WRITE A REPORT

YOU NEED TO WRITE MEMOS WHEN YOU ANALYSE QUALITATIVE DATA

YOU NEED TO KEEP A RESEARCHER DIARY

YOU NEED TO WRITE YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL

YOU NEED TO KEEP NOTES WHEN YOU READ

YOU NEED TO BLOG & BUILD ONLINE PRESENCE

YOU NEED TO BE MORE REGULAR WITH YOUR EMAIL

THE END OF THE 1st YEAR

BOOM

BUT I SURVIVED...

MY JOURNEY AS A RESEARCHER

HOW I CROSSED THE THIN LINE FROM HATING WRITING TO ACTUALLY LOVING IT

Volha Arkhipenka | PhD candidate | The University of Manchester
volha.arkhipenka@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

"WRITING IS THINKING. IT IS NATURAL TO BELIEVE THAT YOU NEED TO BE CLEAR IN YOUR MIND WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO EXPRESS FIRST BEFORE YOU CAN WRITE IT DOWN. HOWEVER, MOST OF THE TIME THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE" (Gibbs, 2007: 25)

"TO DO RESEARCH IS TO INQUIRE, TO DIG ONE'S WAY INTO A PROBLEM, AND WRITING IS ONE OF THE BEST TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH WORK" (Bolker, 1998: 3)

JULY - AUGUST '14

I NEED A HOBBY, WHY DON'T I READ FICTION IN ENGLISH?

I HAVE SO MANY THOUGHTS, WHY DON'T I WRITE THEM DOWN? MY LANGUAGE JUST FLOWS!!!

BUT WRITING IN HAND SLOWS ME DOWN

TYPING FEELS MUCH BETTER

MY COMPUTER IS JUST A MESS

NOW IT IS MORE ORGANISED AND TIDY

WRITING MY IDEA DOWN

MY IDEA IS GETTING BIGGER

AND IT JUST... FLIES...

READING MY IDEA 2 MONTHS LATER

DID I THINK THIS? I AM A... GENIUS!!!

DEVELOPING AS A WRITER

- Reading literature in my field has helped me to get a better understanding of what to write about
- Reading fiction literature in English has helped me to develop language skills
- Accepting myself as a person who hates writing in hand has helped me to stop fighting myself and start playing to my strengths
- Sorting my writing tools out has helped me to bring order to my writing and become more productive
- Trying writing down my thoughts has helped me to see the value of writing for myself and finally cross the thin line from hating writing to actually loving it

Bolker, J., 1998. Writing your dissertation in fifteen minutes a day. New York: Henry Holt and Company.
Gibbs, G., 2007. Analyzing qualitative data. London: SAGE.

SEPTEMBER '14

I'll WRITE FOR MY PHD REGULARLY FROM NOW ON

TARGET

6 MONTHS LATER:

- ~30k OBSERVATION NOTES
- ~80k TRANSCRIPTS
- ~30k DATA GENERATION NOTES
- ~10k RESEARCHER DIARY
- ~3k FOR THESIS