Conventions for writing a dissertation differ dramatically from field to field, but they share one common feature: the process is a daunting one. For humanities and social science dissertators, the dissertation is probably the most comprehensive and lengthy scholarly project you’ve yet to complete. In the sciences, the writing process might take place over a few months and entail a collection of shorter papers. Talk to people in your field early on to get a sense of the process in your particular field.

Going through the sometimes lengthy and often isolating process of writing a dissertation can be made easier by communicating clearly and frequently with your principle dissertation advisor and with other members of your dissertation committee. The particulars of your dissertation – its methodology, argumentation, and contribution to your discipline – should be worked out in close consultation with the members of your dissertation committee.

The resources listed below also offer advice on how to weather the process of writing a dissertation: from handling committee members, to devising a schedule and sticking to it, and finishing the project.

**BROWN UNIVERSITY DISSERTATION RESOURCES**

- **Dissertation Discussion Group**: A monthly meeting sponsored by the Office of Student Life. All levels of dissertation writing and all fields are welcome. Meet other graduate students in the throes of writing, get some helpful advice, exchange procrastination techniques (always good for a laugh), and learn how to avoid writer’s block! Contact Dean Maria Suarez at Maria_Suarez@brown.edu.


**ONLINE RESOURCES: DISSERTATION**

- Fee-for-service dissertation coaching service is available at [http://academiccoachingandwriting.org/dissertation-doctor/](http://academiccoachingandwriting.org/dissertation-doctor/). Both sites publish free resources and tips on the dissertation process, from choosing a topic to getting it finished.

**PRINT RESOURCES: DISSERTATION**

- *Write your Dissertation in 15 Minutes a Day* by Joan Bolker (H. Holt, 1998.)
Writing a Dissertation or Thesis