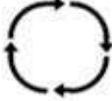


## STAGES OF THE THESIS WRITING PROCESS

- |  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| <p><b>1 Prewriting</b><br/><u><b>CONTEXTUAL</b></u></p>  | <p>- The writer sets the thesis in context by considering the topic, purpose and audience, completes the bulk of the reading, and ensures all data is collected and analysed. S/he then thinks about how to set it all down in the thesis.</p> <p><b>- DATA GATHERING</b></p>   | R          |
| <p><b>2 Draft writing</b><br/><u><b>IDEATIONAL</b></u></p>   | <p>- The writer plots out structures or outlines, jots down ideas or fragments, then writes larger pieces or whole chapters. This process carries on until most of the thesis content has been drafted in rough.</p> <p><b>- IDEA GENERATION</b></p>  | E<br><br>C |
| <p></p> <p><b>3 Major editing</b><br/><u><b>INTERACTIVE</b></u></p> | <p>- The writer reads and rereads the drafts to see if the thesis argument is presented clearly - ordering, adding, deleting - and elaborating or clarifying where necessary. This is where the chapter divisions become clearer in terms of how they fit traditional thesis structure (or not). The writer goes back time and time again to stage 2, as articulating ideas clearly for the reader often prompts new discoveries.</p> <p><b>- IDEA ORGANISATION/STRUCTURING</b></p> | U<br><br>R |
| <p><b>4 Minor editing and polishing</b><br/><u><b>SOCIAL</b></u></p>   | <p>- This stage includes minor editing and proof-reading, not only to check spellings, grammar and style, but also to ensure that all research conventions are included and correctly applied. As the thesis is an argument, conventions relating to precision and evidence are particularly important for acceptance by peers.</p> <p><b>- EDITING</b></p>   | S<br><br>I |
| <p><b>5 Evaluation</b><br/><u><b>REFLEXIVE</b></u></p>   | <p>- The writer checks that the thesis reads clearly and logically, and achieves the purpose of the study (i.e. answers the research questions). S/he must check that the thesis satisfies the examination criteria, and ensure that any original contribution to the body of knowledge in the field is emphasised. A self-critique in the concluding chapter/s will assist the examiners and other readers to assess the worth of the thesis.</p> <p><b>- EVALUATING</b></p>       | V<br><br>E |

Supervisors usually give feedback on the thesis drafts throughout the composing of the thesis, and not just at the end.

N.B. The satisfactory completion of each stage affects the completion of the next stage. External factors can also impact on how/whether each stage is completed.