Top 10 Tips for New Researchers

Jude Spiers, PhD, RN
Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing
Distinguished Scholar, IIQM
University of Alberta
February 14, 2019

jaspiers@ualberta.ca

Session Goals

After this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify why qualitative research is not a linear process – on paper or in reality.
- Understand the concept of cycles of deliberation- iterative, cyclical, deliberative discourse in qualitative research.

 Identify practical tips to implement prior to, or during research processes.

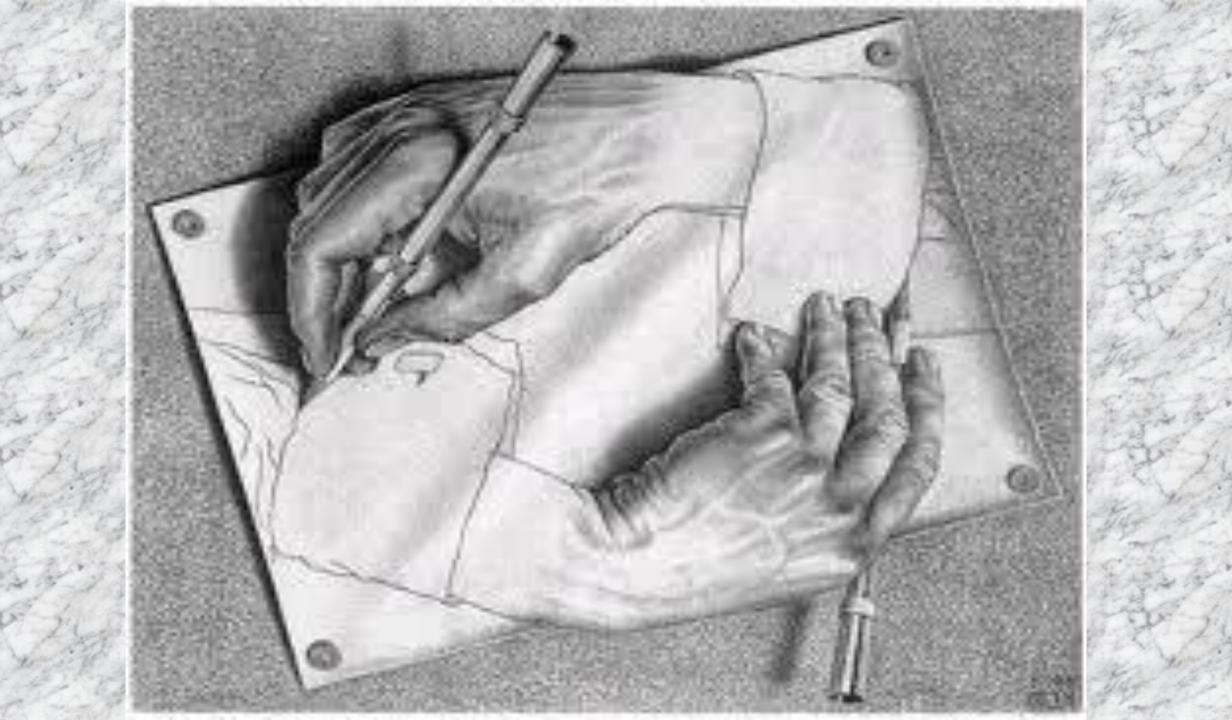
Pickles Test

What associations
– links – or stories
can you make with
these cards?

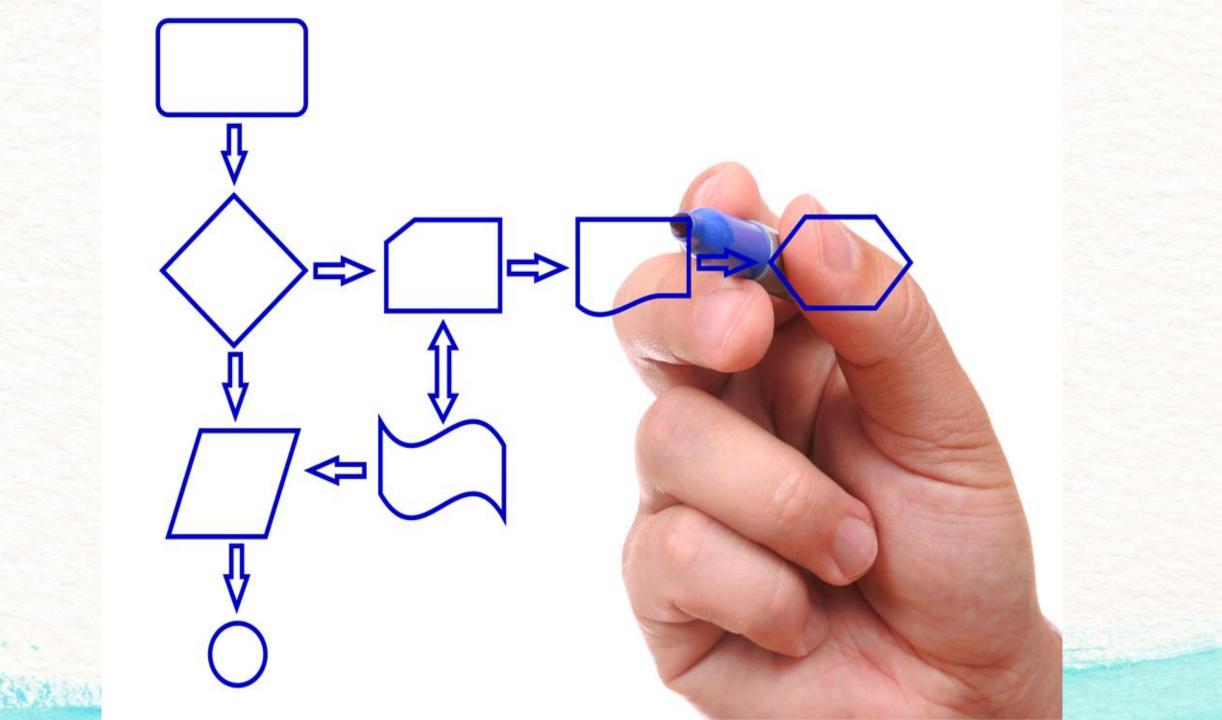


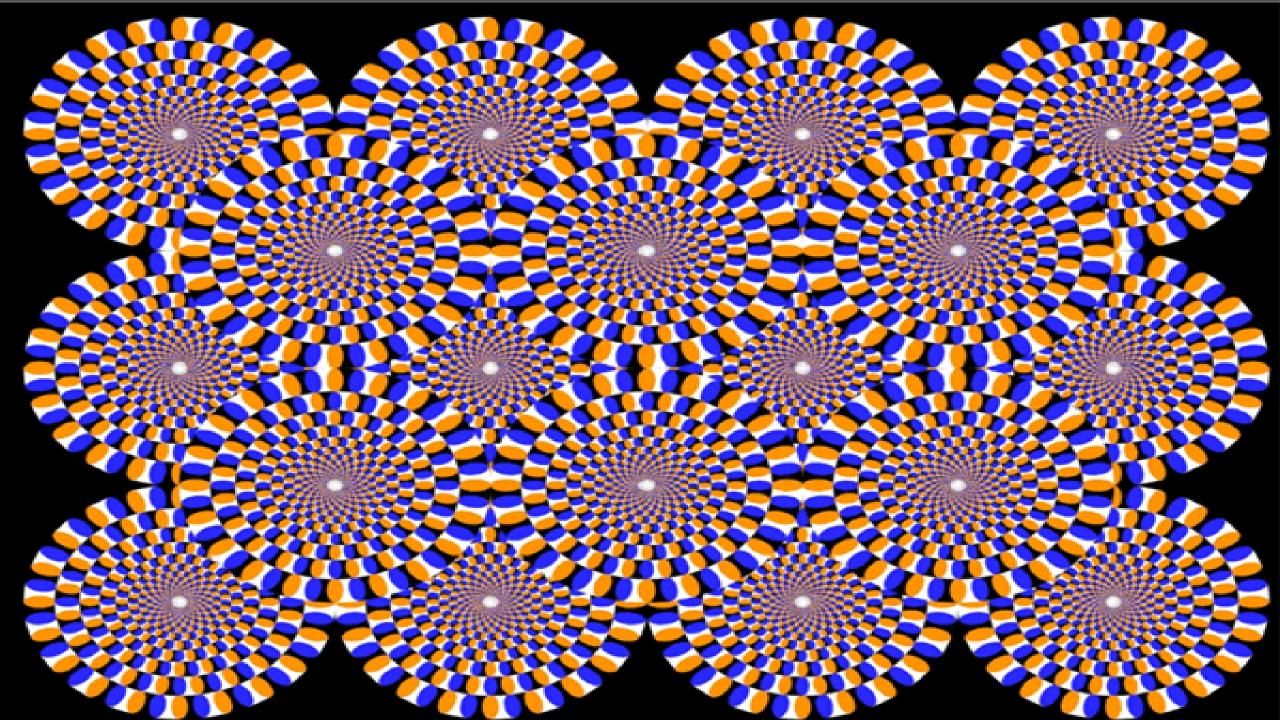












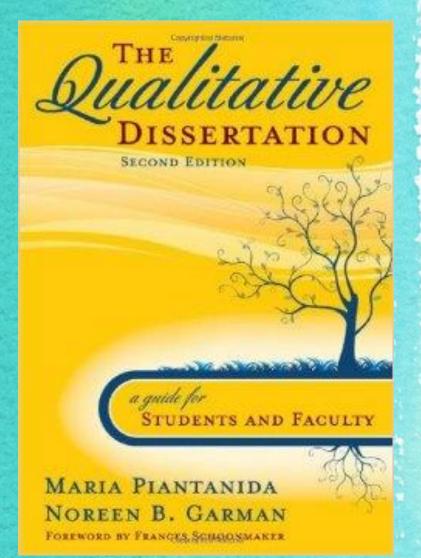




What mistakes did Bear make in learning to use a treadmill for the first time?



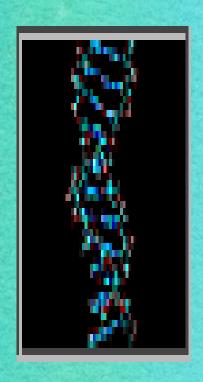
Cycles of Discursive Deliberation



- Visit & revisit the same substance, discourses, ideas again & again in different ways with more profound levels of deliberations & understanding.
- Continual interplay between personal knowledge grounded in experience, formal bodies of knowledge, data/information you are generating in your project.
- Iterative cycles involve interplay between private ruminations and thinking aloud with others.
- Cycling between preparation of written documents and informational and formal reviews of those documents.
- Each layer is an evolution in your clearer conceptual connections among key facets of your inquiry.

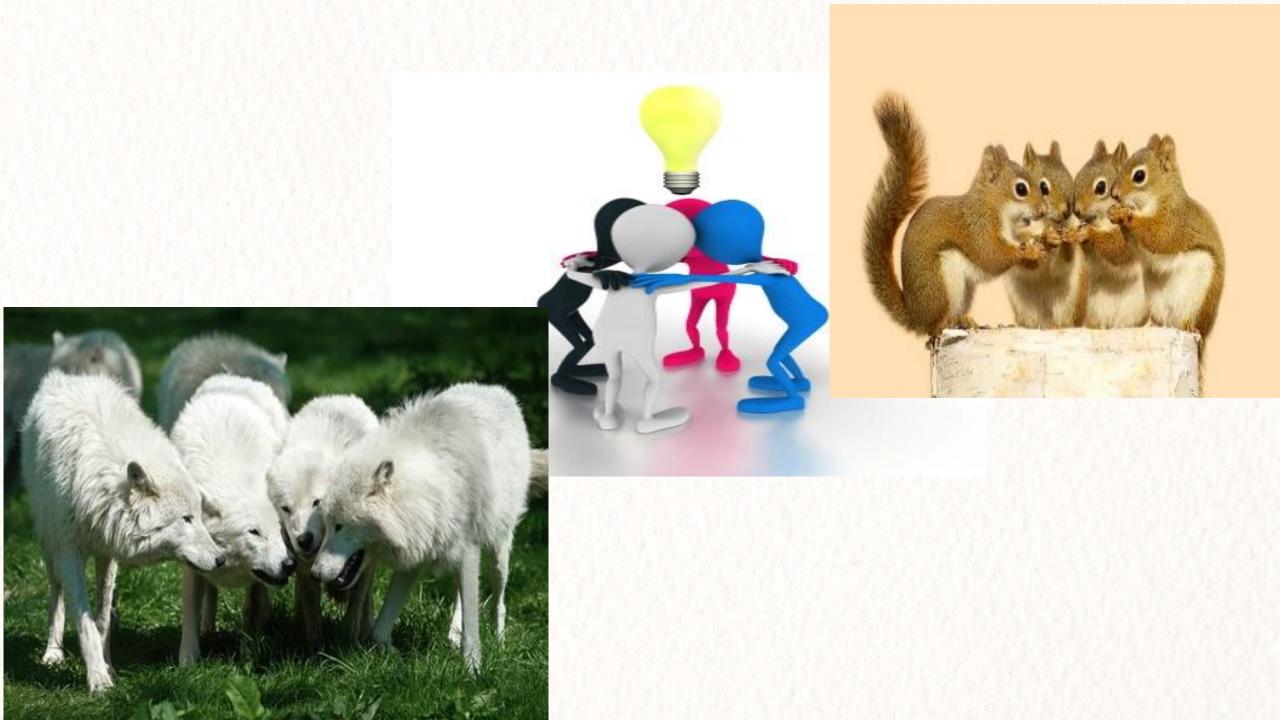
Cycles of Deliberation

(Piantanida & Garman (2009)



- Facing the research
- Moving into the research
- Crafting the research proposal
- Proposing the study
- Living with the study
- Entering into public discourses
- Adjusting to life afterwards





Common Errors

- Not realising the messiness & evolving nature of qualitative research
- Balancing depth with scope of data: Amassing data
- Dealing with being overwhelmed how to be thorough without being overwhelmed?
- Moments of brain sizzle & sense of doing everything wrong
- Relating analysis, theoretical frame & research questions
- Software- doing the thinking for you
- Descriptive versus theoretical coding that will get help you answer your research purpose
- Not talking or sharing ideas
- Not writing until you "get it right"
- Question own assumptions? You do not know what you do not know
- Tracking great ideas but not losing main focus of your work
- Lack of memos & tracking of ideas
- Failing to note why & where something is interesting- or uninteresting
- Questioning own assumptions

Qualitative Research is a craft

Practice with a Mentor:

- RA work
- Volunteer work
- Work with peers



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYAgFY8Gfq4

Calling out for help

 Balance between finding your own way & calling out for help.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrSUe_m19FY

Learning Software-

BEFORE YOU NEED IT

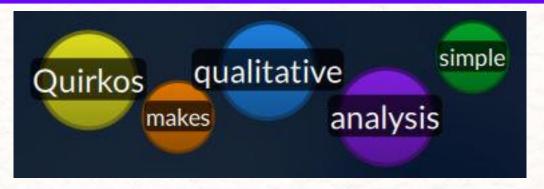
Analyzing qualitative data

How do I summarize and make sense of all these words?

Software-

Learn it BEFORE you need it.

Com	paring	Softw	are Packag	es
BASIC FEATURES	ATLAS.TI	NVIVO	HYPERRESEARCH	MAXQDA2
Platform	Windows	Windows	Mac/ Windows	Windows
Import text files	X	X	X	X
Import image files	X	Х	Х	X
Import audio and video files	X		X	Х
Concept mapping	X	Х	X	Х
Allows for team work	X	X	X	х
Export report to Excel or SPSS	X	Text file	Text file	х
Memoing	X	X	X	Х
Drag and drop coding	X	X	X	х
Text searching	Х	Х	X	X
		Creswell Qualitative In	quiry 2e	8.31

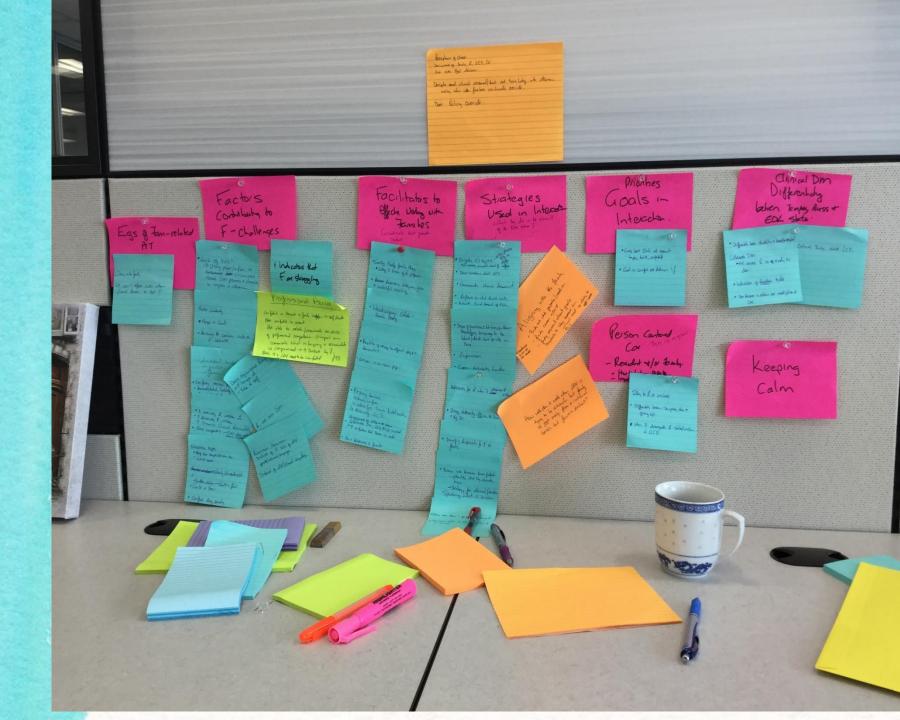


https://www.slideshare.net/hashimabbasi786/chapter08-48560557

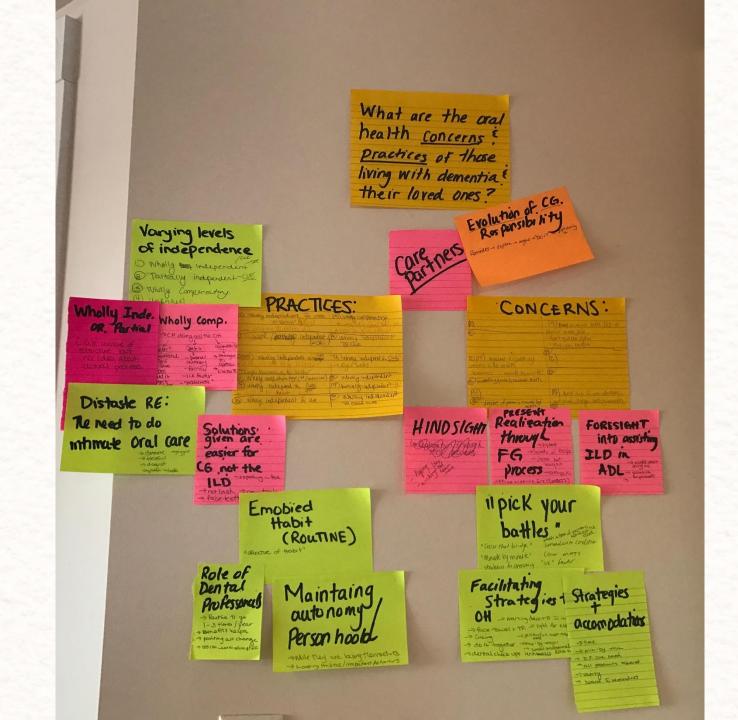
Differentiate the type of coding you are doing

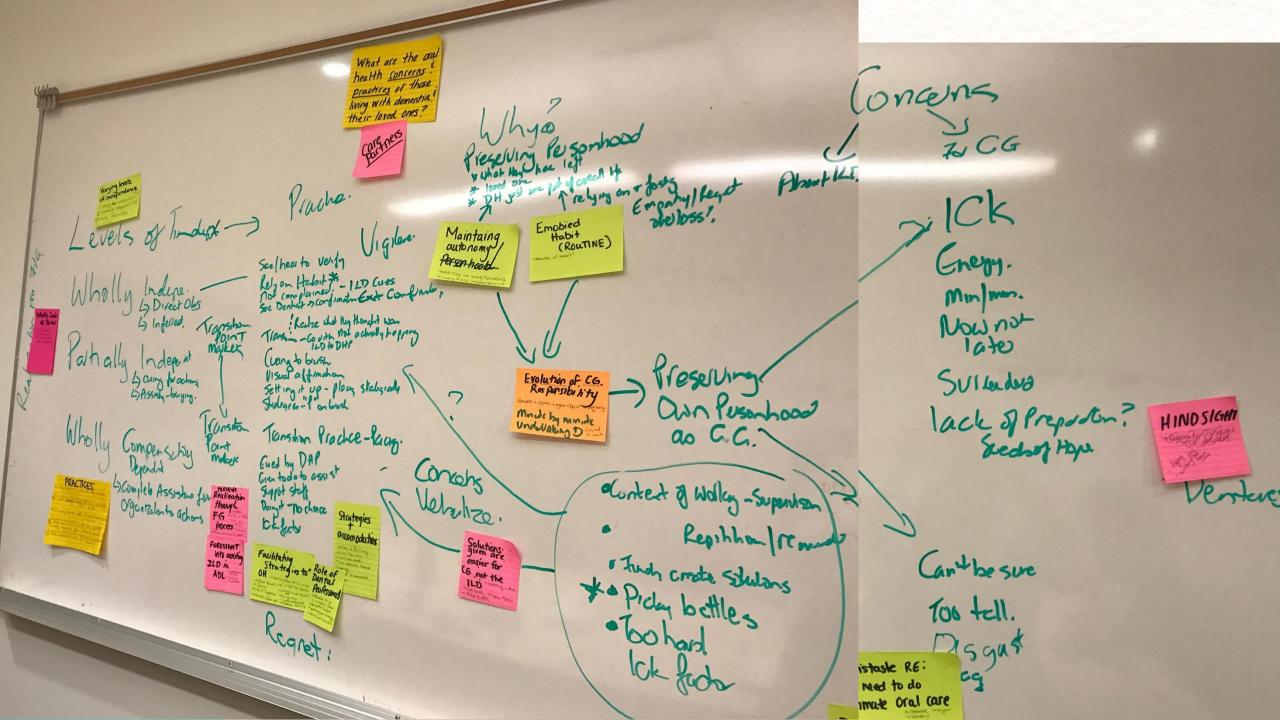
- Descriptive
- Topical
- Analytic
- Largely useless.e.g. Emotions

Think first, computer code second



Talk about your ideas and analysis





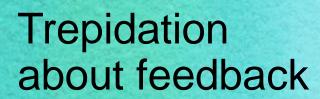
Start writing much earlier than you think



Writer.ly

Treat all work as a draft





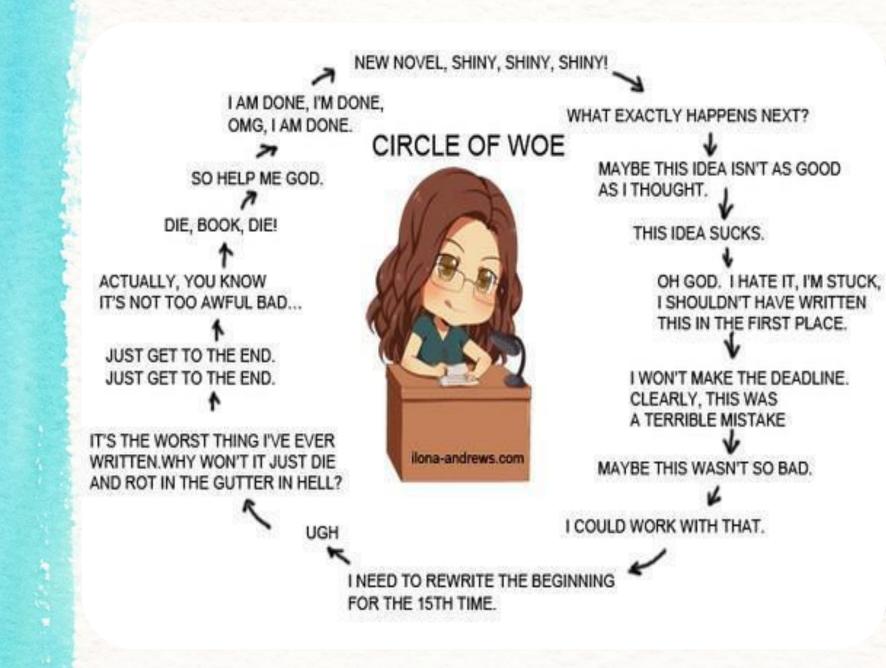




Treat all work as a draft



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx2ag0S5Zu0



Self awareness



There are things known and there are things unknown, and in between are the doors of perception...

~Aldous Huxley~

Summary

Top 10 tips

- Qualitative Research is a craft
- Calling out for help
- Learning software- before you need it
- Differentiate the type of coding you are doing
- Think first, computer code second
- Talk about your ideas and analysis
- Start writing much earlier than you think
- Treat all work as a draft
- Self awareness
- (Plus another 1228 tips should you have the time)

Useful resources

Piantanida, M. & Garman, N. B. (2009). *The Qualitative Dissertation: A Guide for Students and Faculty (2nd ed.).* Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

Richards, L., & Morse, J. M. (2013). Readme first for a user's guide to qualitative methods. (3rded.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

The Qualitative Report Guide to Qualitative Research Websites: Curated by Dr. R.J. Chenail: This is a resource site for online communities, research centers, learning resources and qualitative researchers. https://tqr.nova.edu/websites/

THANK YOU!

jaspiers@ualberta.ca

