FACULTY OF ARTS COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Transition to Research

Producing good scholarship is a matter of rigorous and ethical thinking. This session is about understanding where you have come from in research so far, where you intend to finish up, and why you want to do this. Knowing yourself, and being able to deal with the highs and lows of research is an important part of success.

1. What is your previous experience of research?
   What is research?
   What are the differences between research and scholarship?
   What makes a good scholar?

2. What are your objectives in doing this MPhil/PhD? (Why are you doing it?)
   Intrinsic and extrinsic motivations. What will be success for you?

3. What is an MPhil? What is a PhD? Word length? (Find out what the formal rules are.) Scope? Genre? Project management.

4. What is your research topic?

5. What is your thesis title? The importance of keywords.
   “Death, Desire, and Damnation: Arguing Against The Legal System.”
   “Death, Desire and Damnation: Charles Dickens’ Metaphors of Law 1835-1870.” Who, what, when?


7. Structuring your time, by day, by week, by month, by six months, by year.
   Producing your own deadlines.

8. Who else has a stake in your work? MQ? Your family? Your employer?


10. The Readers.

(A/Prof Marea Mitchell, 1/3/10)