# Tips and Recommendations

# (Paul) White Formula

1. Tell ‘em what you're going to tell 'em.
2. Tell 'em.
3. Tell 'em what you told 'em.

# Information Management

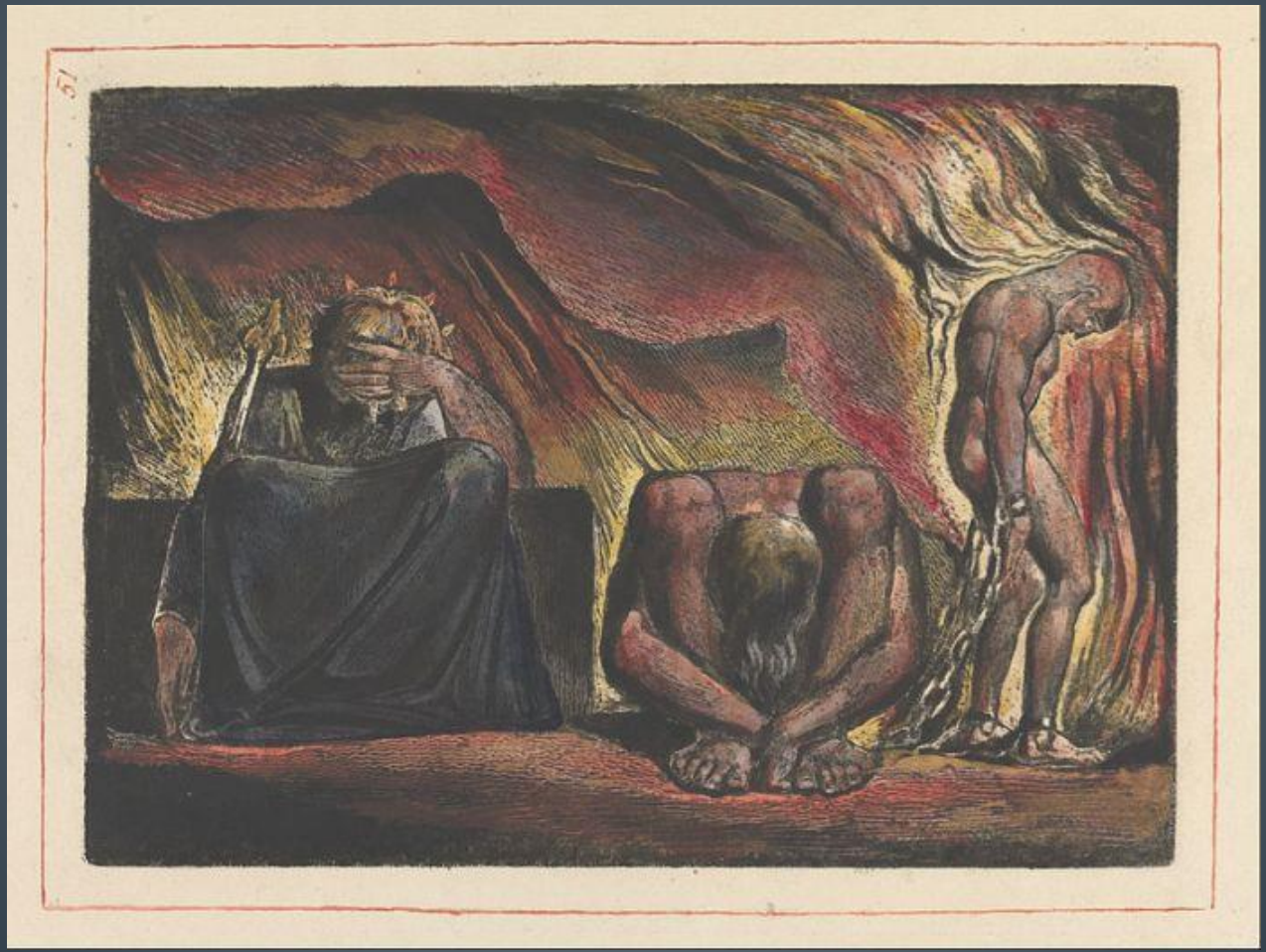
Write it down!

Get it OUT of your short-term memory.

Use a note-taking system…

or create your own.

"I must create a system or be enslaved by another man's" (William Blake, "Jerusalem")

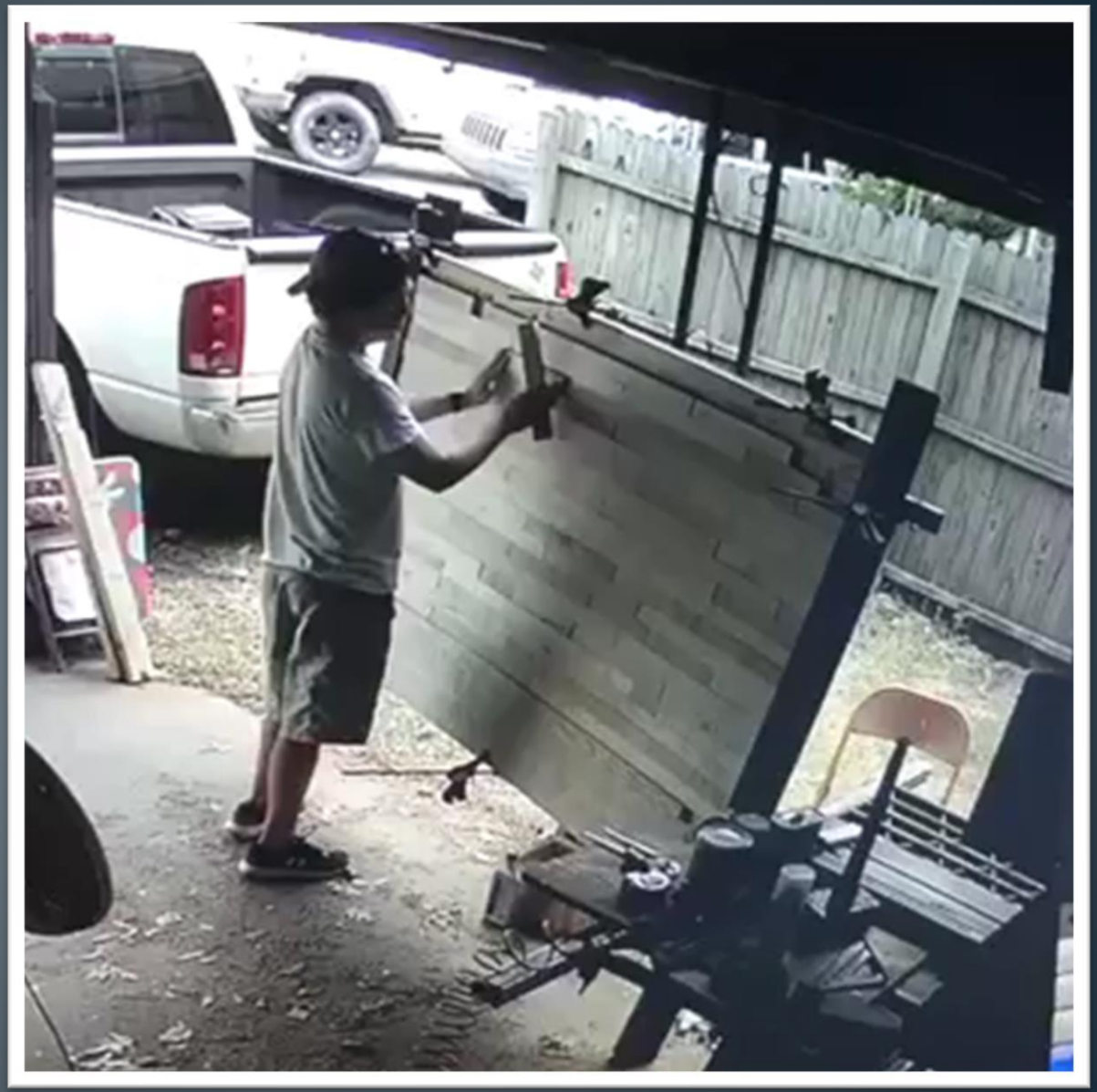


# Drafting

Negotiate a truce with your inner perfectionist.

"Done is Better than Perfect"
(on a programmer's wall at Facebook)

"Perfect is the Enemy of Good"



# Crap Drafting!!!

Give yourself permission to write
a "crap draft" – then FIX it!

"Write with gusto. Edit for clarity"

"Write Drunk. Edit Sober"

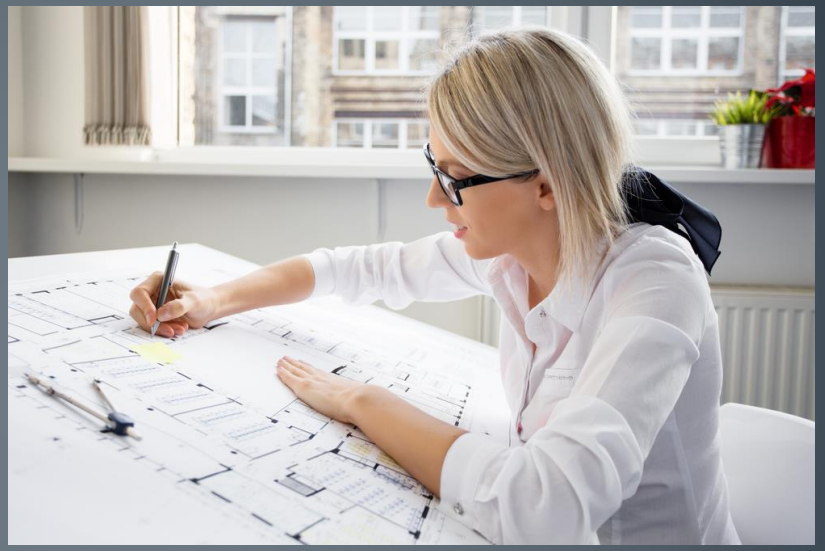
(Mis-attributed to Earnest Hemingway)

# "Madman, Architect, Carpenter, and Judge" (Betty Sue Flowers)

1. **Madman** is "full of ideas, writes crazily and perhaps rather sloppily, gets carried away by enthusiasm or anger, and if really let loose, could turn out 10 pages an hour."

# "Madman, Architect, Carpenter, and Judge" (Betty Sue Flowers)

2. **Architect** puts "the madman's ideas into a sensible order. That might be as simple as writing down three or five main points. Then figure out the best order and, in effect, you have created a simple outline. The thinking here is large, organizational, paragraph-level thinking. The architect doesn't worry about sentence structure."



# "Madman, Architect, Carpenter, and Judge" (Betty Sue Flowers)

3. The **Carpenter** focuses "on writing out paragraphs that explain each point. The carpenter puts flesh on the bones and – like the madman and architect – doesn't concern itself with editing what is being written. The carpenter nails these ideas together in a logical sequence, making sure each sentence is clearly written, contributes to the argument of the paragraph, and leads logically and gracefully to the next sentence. When the carpenter finishes, the [writing] should be smooth and watertight."

# "Madman, Architect, Carpenter, and Judge" (Betty Sue Flowers)

4. The **Judge** "dons his (or her) robe and begins adjudicating the copy. This is where you look very critically how you expressed yourself and ask yourself how you can improve it. The judge comes around to inspect punctuation, spelling, grammar, tone – all the details which result in a polished essay become important only in this last stage. These details are not the concern of the madman who's come up with them, or the architect who's organized them, or the carpenter who's nailed the ideas together, sentence by sentence. Save details for the judge."

# *The Winning Brief*, by Bryan Garner

Get it Down

Get it Right

Get it Pretty

Get it Out

Ideas never come fully formed in neat sentences & paragraphs!

Sometimes they resemble outlining or free-writing etc. – and they need to be re-shaped.  That's okay!

Write daily (5 days/week minimum)

Goal is1-2 pages daily,

either brainstorming/free-writing or drafting

Mantra:

“revising beats writing”

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Keep your advisors in the loop!

For the love of all that is sacred,

do this—no excuses.

Monthly check-ins, at minimum.

# Remember

Thesis/Senior Project pages on Honors website:

- Formatting Requirements
- FAQ section for you and advisors
- Recommended timeline
- Digital Commons Archive
- http://www.wou.edu/honors/thesis/

# Honors Program



## Senior Thesis/Project

Since it became required in 1989, the Senior Thesis/Project has been the culmination of each Honors student's course of undergraduate study. It represents a significant individual endeavor that can be either creative, scholarly, pedagogical, scientific, or service-oriented.

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**Thesis Classes**

**Timeline**

**Organization/Structure**

**Formatting Requirements**

# Will it be easy?

# Will you finish?

# Sources

- http://www.uq.edu.au/student-services/phdwriting/phlink12.html
- http://student-learning.tcd.ie/postgraduate/topics/writing/thesis/
- http://www.monash.edu.au/lls/hdr/write/5.4.2.html

- http://learning.uow.edu.au/resources/LD/thesis3.pdf (minimal)
- http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~martins/sen_sem/thesis_org.html (minimal)