

# Becker and Bolker on Large Writing Projects

Fred Stutzman  
Academic Productivity Workshop



Writing Your  
Dissertation  
in Fifteen  
Minutes  
a Day

*A Guide to Starting, Revising, and  
Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis*

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EDITOR OF *THE WRITER'S HOME COMPANION*

HOWARD S. DECKER

Writing  
for Social  
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How to Start and Finish  
Your Thesis, Book, or Article  
SECOND EDITION



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# Bolker

- Draft
  - The “Zero Draft”
- Write every day
- Know your limits
- Revise
- Say no
- Revise again



# Becker

- Getting over the first draft as final draft
- Develop a cohort of readers
- Courage



# A Zero Draft

- Stream of consciousness
- Write as fast as possible
- Don't cite
- Write until you can't write anymore



# A Zero Draft

- I think that fakesters had two purposes. First, they were fun, so in academic language we would consider it social gaming. Second, I believe that Fakesters lend the service an air of [triviality, no this is a bad word, what do I mean], Fakesters sort of offloaded some of the apprehension of using the site. Instead of Friendster's conceptual framing being primarily about true, transparent individual use, one saw with fakesters that the site didn't take itself so seriously, that it was fun, not a dating site, etc. I've horribly stated this but I believe it is a key point.



# Revise

- Revision is a continual process. Six or seven drafts is not unusual.
- You save time.



# Theory

- The role of theory in the draft process.
  - You don't "use" theory
  - Theory fills the gaps and saves time
  - Theory as part of the design, not the whole design.



# Becker

- Getting over “writing right” or “one true way”
- Drafting and revision
- The courage to share

