

ABSTRACT

The Agony of Dissertation Writing: A History

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This dissertation analyzes the process of writing a doctoral dissertation in a historical context. Neck cramps, writer's block, frustration and hysteria will be discussed alongside inspired prose, completed final drafts, and successful deposits. The dissertation will also trace the history of doctoral requirements and will seek to answer questions such as why bond paper was once needed (and whence the term derives), who first determined the rules on page numbering, and the origins of the abstract itself.